

Panel 1 "Climate Resilience in Agriculture"



Moderated by **Mahmoud Elyes Hamza**



Director
Regional Activities Centre
for Specially Protected
Areas (UNEP)



**Stephane
Le Foll**

President
"4 per 1000"
Initiative

High Level Meeting

Mediterranean Food Insecurity:
Supportive approaches
to Agriculture and Climate
at national and regional scale

24 October 2024, 14.00–18.30

IAV Hassan II,
Rabat, Morocco



**Dr. Roula
Khadra**

Scientific Coordinator
CIHEAM Bari & Arab
Water Council



**Robin
Degron**

Director
Plan Bleu

Rapporteurs

**Oumaima
Hrameche**

Research Assistant,
LEAF, University of
Lisbon

**Saida
Boumekrat**

Researcher, Hassan II
Agronomic and
Veterinary Institute

Mahmoud Elyes Hamza is a doctor of agronomic sciences and a professor at the Tunisian higher agricultural education system. Born in Mahdia in 1958, he obtained his doctorate from the National Institute of Agronomy in Paris-Grignon. After starting as an assistant at the National Agronomic Institute of Tunisia (INAT), he rose through the ranks to become a professor in 2012, specializing in rural engineering, water, and forestry. He has led several institutions, including the Higher Institute of Preparatory Studies and INAT. He served as Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources, and Fisheries from 2021 to 2023, and since January 2024, he has been the Director of the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (UNEP). He was awarded the title of Knight of the National Order of Merit in the field of Education and Science in 2007.

Stéphane Le Foll is a French politician, currently serving as the Mayor of Le Mans and President of the Le Mans Métropole since 2018. Born in Le Mans in 1960, he is the grandson of a farmer. After obtaining a BTS in Agriculture and a DEA in Economics, he became an economics professor (1983-88) before teaching at the University of Nantes. Le Foll began his political career as a municipal councilor in Longnes in 1983, and then in Le Mans starting in 2001. He served as a Member of the European Parliament from 2004 to 2012, and also held the position of Minister of Agriculture, Agrifood, and Forestry (2012-2017) under President François Hollande, while also being the government spokesperson from 2014. He is the founder of the "4 per 1000" initiative, launched during COP 21, which aims to promote increased carbon storage in agricultural soils to combat climate change, and he currently serves as its president.

Dr. Roula Khadra is the Scientific Coordinator at CIHEAM Bari and Governor of the Arab Water Council Board of Delegates. With over 20 years of experience in water management and agricultural innovation, she holds a degree in rural engineering and a PhD in Mediterranean agriculture. She was also a Fulbright Scholar at UC Davis. A specialist in the water-energy nexus and sustainable irrigation, she has contributed to participatory irrigation programs in the Mediterranean and technological innovations in water management. She coordinates a master's program in sustainable water and land management and founded the "Digital Agriculture" laboratory at CIHEAM-Bari. Dr. Khadra contributes also to international platforms and forums such as the World Water Forum and COP conferences.

Robin Degron is the Director of Plan Bleu (UN Environment) and a magistrate at the Court of Auditors in France. A former student of ENGREF and ENA, he also holds a doctorate in biogeography and is qualified to supervise research. His diverse background has led him to work at various levels, from local authorities to the European Union, as well as with international organizations, including UN agencies. He has carried out numerous missions in the Maghreb and Sub-Saharan Africa. His research focuses on sustainable development, the environment, and the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a particular emphasis on socio-cultural factors in the implementation of public policies.

Oumaima Hrameche is a researcher at the LEAF Research Centre at the School of Agriculture of the University of Lisbon (ISA Lisboa). There, she leads trials on the agronomic and environmental performance of new organo-mineral fertilizers. Previously, she worked as a research assistant at ELGO-DIMITRA in Greece on the European projects SUSTAINOLIVE and GEN4OLIVE. Oumaima holds a Master's degree in sustainable agriculture from CIHEAM Chania and an engineering degree from IAV-Hassan II in Rabat. An active contributor to the scientific community, she recently published an article in the journal *Plants* on optimizing agroecological measures for olive cultivation in the Mediterranean. Her research focuses on innovative agroecological solutions for sustainable resource management.



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Panel 2 “Fostering Innovation through Science and Technology”



Moderated by **Raúl Compés**



Director
CIHEAM Zaragoza



Loubna El Mansour
Director
Digital Pole, Ministry
of Agriculture
(Morocco)

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Giordano Dichter
Economist, Local
Development expert
H&D Partners



Octavi Quintana
Director
PRIMA Foundation

Rapporteurs



Giuseppina Miuli
Project Manager CIHEAM
Bari

Charifa Touzani
Researcher, IAV HII

Raúl Compés López has been the director of the CIHEAM Zaragoza Institute (Spain) since January 2021. He holds a PhD in agricultural engineering from the Polytechnic University of Valencia (UPV) and is a professor in the Department of Economics and Social Sciences at the same university. He is the vice president of the European Association of Wine Economists (EUAWE) and also serves as an expert within the Spanish Commission of the International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV). Since March 2024, he has been a member of the Aragonese Academy of Gastronomy. An author of several award-winning publications by the OIV, he specializes in wine economics and sustainability strategies in response to climate change.

Octavi Quintana is the director of PRIMA (Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area). A physician specializing in intensive care medicine, he served as the director of the Hospital de Málaga and as deputy director of INSALUD. He has also chaired the Bioethics Committee of the Council of Europe and was vice-chair of the European Group on Ethics of the European Commission. Within the Spanish Ministry of Health, he held the position of Director of International Affairs. Committed to humanitarian missions, he coordinated aid efforts in Rwanda, Burundi, Bosnia, and Kosovo. He has also directed scientific outreach programs on TVE2 and served as the Director of Scientific Research at the European Commission in the fields of health, energy, and European research. Since 2017, he has been at the helm of the PRIMA Foundation.

Loubna El Mansouri has been the Director of the Digital Hub for Agriculture, Forestry, and Drought Monitoring in Morocco since December 2021. In this role, she leads the strategic transformation of the agricultural sector by integrating digital technologies and promoting innovation. She is a permanent professor of geomatics sciences at the Hassan II Agronomic and Veterinary Institute in Rabat, where she also served as the head of the Geodesy-Topography department. She coordinates several training modules and co-edited the book “Geospatial Technologies for Effective Land Governance”. A member of the steering committee for the Agri-Tech4Morocco innovation challenge, she is an active consultant in South-South cooperation and digital agriculture for various international organizations.

Giordano Dichter is an expert in business incubation and acceleration, and co-founder of the consulting firm H&D Partners SRL based in Brussels. Giordano has over 25 years of experience in creating and managing entrepreneurial ecosystems and innovation support structures across Europe, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Africa. His work focuses on developing solutions tailored to the needs of startups and SMEs, with a specialization in entrepreneurship services, access to financing, and open innovation. He has led projects aimed at improving the business models of incubators and accelerators internationally. Between 2009 and 2018, he led the EU|BIC services team within the EBN network. Prior to that, he collaborated with the United Nations (UNOPS, ILO) and worked on economic development in the Balkans. Giordano collaborates with CIHEAM Bari as a trainer, entrepreneurship expert, and member of the coordination team for the Mediterranean Innovation Partnership.

Giuseppina Miuli is an expert in Open Innovation and manages international cooperation programs within the Youth Entrepreneurship & Innovation Ecosystems unit at CIHEAM Bari. She is a project manager and international coach for the "Startup10" project, funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which supports youth and startups from 10 countries in the MedAfrica region. Additionally, she serves as a tutor and innovation coach for the Master's program in Open Innovation and Youth Entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean agrifood sector. Holding a Master's degree in Economics and Strategies for International Markets from the University of Bari, she is also a co-author of the article "Advancing University-Business Cooperation in the Mediterranean Area."



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Panel 3 « Enhancing Food Sovereignty and Security »



Moderated by **Thierry Dupeuble**



Director
CIHEAM Montpellier



Matthieu Brun
Scientific Director
Foundation FARM

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Lamiae Ghaouti
Deputy Director
Cooperation, Partnership
and Development, IAVH II



Roberto Capone
Principal
Administrator, CIHEAM

Rapporteurs



Claire Marechal
Student, IRIS, France
and CIHEAM



Dr. Manal Benani
Youth and Culture Manager
Africa-Europe Foundation

Thierry Dupeuble is an agronomist and doctor in economics. He is a specialist in public policies in favor of sustainable agriculture and rural development. He has supported development projects in the fields of organic farming and sustainable agriculture, on-farm transformation and selling, and rural tourism. Most of his experiences have been run in various positions within the ministry for agriculture in France. As such, he recently worked on the declination of the French national food policy at the regional level. Since 2021, he is the director of CIHEAM Montpellier.

Roberto Capone is a Senior Administrator at the General Secretariat of CIHEAM in Paris. He has served as Secretary General of the National Committee between the Italian government and the United Nations. As head of the Sustainable Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development department at CIHEAM Bari, he advised the Italian Ministry on Mediterranean research. He coordinated and served on the technical committee of the Italian Ministry of Agriculture for the nomination of the Mediterranean Diet as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO. A member of the scientific committee of the research center "Divulga," he is also the focal point for the sustainability of food systems and the Mediterranean diet at the General Secretariat of CIHEAM.

Matthieu BRUN, Scientific Director of the FARM Foundation (Fondation pour l'agriculture et la ruralité dans le monde). Matthieu Brun has a doctorate in political science and is a research associate at the 'Les Afriques dans le monde' laboratory at Sciences Po Bordeaux. His work focuses on the geopolitics of agriculture and food security in the context of climate change. Matthieu Brun has worked for Club Demeter, the International Centre for Higher Agronomic Mediterranean Studies (CIHEAM) and the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (Iddri - Sciences Po). He regularly publishes articles, columns and interviews in the media and has edited the annual agricultural and food geostrategic outlook book Le Déméter (IRIS Editions).

Prof. Lamiae Ghaouti is Deputy Director of Cooperation, Partnership and Development at the Agronomic and Veterinary Institute Hassan II (IAV Hassan II, Rabat, Morocco). She also holds the position of head of the Department of Plant Production, Protection and Biotechnology where she has taught since 2011. She obtained her doctorate in agronomy, specialization in plant genetic improvement at the Georg-August University Göttingen in Germany, where she obtained her Doctor of Agronomy and received the Kurt von Rümker Prize in Quedlinburg in 2009. Since 2019, she has been a member of the Advisory Board, the scientific council of CIHEAM. Ms. Ghaouti was president of the CIHEAM Advisory Board from 2021 to 2023

Dr. Manal Benani is the Youth and Culture Manager at the Africa Europe Foundation, where she leads initiatives that amplify youth engagement in policy-making and cultural dialogue across Africa and Europe. With a strong foundation in medicine and diplomacy, she has dedicated her career to empowering young voices and fostering cross-continental cooperation. Dr. Benani has moderated key international events, including the UN Water Conference and the Summit of the Future, reflecting her commitment to addressing global issues, especially those affecting youth and sustainable development. She is also an experienced trainer in debate and public speaking through the Young Mediterranean Voices Program and is actively involved in climate action and energy initiatives. As a co-founder of Sustainable Cooperation for Peace and Security, she collaborates with organizations such as SEforALL, UFM, and the British Council, working towards sustainable solutions for pressing global challenges.

Claire Maréchal is currently completing her final internship at CIHEAM as a Content and Publication Assistant. She is a student at IRIS (Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies), where she is finishing a master's degree in International Project Management, specializing in humanitarian and development studies with a strategic focus.

During her studies, she spent a semester at Saint Joseph University in Beirut, Lebanon, where she wrote a research thesis titled "Agriculture in Lebanon: A New Battleground for Influences" under the supervision of Sébastien Abis, director of the DEMETER Club. Claire also holds a master's degree in Public Administration from IPAG in Brest.



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