



ALBANIE / ALBANIA

Ms Anila DENAJ

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development

*Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished representatives of CIHEAM member countries,
Friends!*

I would like to begin by extending my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your dedication and cooperation in our shared efforts to address the pressing issues affecting agriculture, food security, and sovereignty in the Mediterranean.

Allow me to express my deepest gratitude to H.E Ahmed El Bouari, Minister of Agriculture of the Kingdom of Morocco and Mr. Mohammed Sadiki, for hosting the meeting.

I apologize not being present due to some active political activities as member of Parliament.

Albania is fully committed to advancing the EU integration process and strengthen regional cooperation to address the major challenges that lie ahead. Climate change, is impacting our region and is bringing difficulties in agriculture.

Today, agriculture must become more resilient and sustainable.

The Rabat Declaration, which we are to adopt, emphasizes the importance of a comprehensive approach to food sovereignty as a means to strengthen our national capacities and improve the quality of our agri-food systems.

In Albania, we are dedicated to improve our agricultural systems by promoting sustainable practices.

As a country with a rich tradition in agriculture and fisheries, we will continue to work closely with our Mediterranean partners to share our knowledge and experience.

Youth and women are key players in this process. We must engage our young people in

agriculture, making this sector more attractive and promising for them.

As highlighted in the declaration, we need to create more opportunities for youth in the fields of innovation, entrepreneurship, and natural resources management.

Equally important, women, particularly in rural areas, we need to empower them with our policies and provide concrete support to improve their livelihoods and develop their communities.

In this context, it is also crucial that we focus on knowledge sharing and collaboration through joint initiatives like those driven by CIHEAM. Albania is committed to supporting initiatives aimed at conserving water resources, improving land management, and developing greener technologies that can help mitigate climate change and address these pressing challenges.

To conclude, I would like once again to thank the organizers for providing us with this excellent platform to discuss and address these issues.

I am confident that through our collective actions, we will be able to create a better future for our people.

Thank you, and I wish you all success as we continue this important meeting.