



MALTE / MALTA

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Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights

*Dear Ministers,
President of CIHEAM,
Secretary General,
Colleagues,*

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude to the Moroccan Ministry for Agriculture and organising team for their exceptional organization of this Ministerial conference in the beautiful country of Morocco. Their warm hospitality has made this event a resounding success.

The CIHEAM has been a cornerstone of agricultural development and cooperation in the Mediterranean region for decades. It is a testament to our shared commitment to sustainable agriculture, food security, and regional prosperity.

The challenges we face in the Mediterranean are multifaceted. Climate change, resource scarcity, and demographic shifts are just some of the pressing issues that threaten our agrifood systems. Yet, within these challenges lies an opportunity for transformation. The CIHEAM can be the catalyst for a sustainable and resilient Mediterranean.

Malta, too, has faced its share of challenges in recent years, including the impacts of climate change, urbanization pressure, and population growth. To address these issues, we have sought collaboration with other countries to learn from their experiences and explore different approaches. Knowledge sharing among Mediterranean countries is a key element of development and a cornerstone of the CIHEAM's fundamental values.

As a small member state, Malta recognizes the importance of international cooperation in addressing global challenges. The CIHEAM provides a valuable platform for fostering dialogue, sharing best practices, and developing joint solutions.

Our region is rich in talent and innovation. By investing in education, research, and technology transfer, we can empower our people to drive change. The CIHEAM can play a pivotal role in creating a network of experts who can share best practices and develop innovative solutions.

The challenges we face are too complex to be addressed by any single country or organization. We must work together, leveraging the expertise and resources of governments, international organizations, and the private sector. Building strong partnerships and exploring new funding mechanisms is essential to support CIHEAM's initiatives.

Sustainable development cannot be achieved without leaving anyone behind. We must ensure that our efforts benefit all segments of society, including women, youth, and smallholder farmers. By promoting gender equality, youth empowerment, and support for smallholders, we can create a more equitable and resilient agrifood system.

In conclusion, Malta unequivocally supports the CIHEAM Declaration. We believe that it provides a comprehensive and forward-looking framework for addressing the challenges facing our region's agrifood systems. By working together and implementing the recommendations outlined in the declaration, we can create a more sustainable, resilient, and prosperous Mediterranean.

Thank you.