



## TÜRKIYE

### **Mr. Ahmet Volkan GÜNGÖREN**

Deputy Director General for European Union and Foreign Relations  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

---

*Distinguished Ministers,  
Madame President and Mr. Secretary General of CIHEAM,  
Representatives of member countries and Institutions,  
Esteemed Representatives of International Organizations,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

It is my great pleasure and privilege to address this honourable audience at the 12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture of CIHEAM.

With this opportunity, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Kingdom of Morocco and the CIHEAM Secretariat for their great efforts in organizing this meeting.

#### **Esteemed Participants,**

As we all know, the Mediterranean region is renowned for its diverse and rich agricultural heritage. The region's agriculture thrives under its distinctive climate, producing a rich tapestry of crops such as ancient olive groves and vibrant citrus orchards.

Food and nutrition security in the region encounters significant challenges due to climate change, water scarcity and socio-economic disparities. These factors affect agricultural productivity and access to nutritious food. Additionally; fluctuations in food prices; changing consumption habits; limited natural resources, decreasing water supplies; rapid urbanization and migration as well as inadequate logistics infrastructure - all contribute to these issues.

Beside all this, the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in Palestine which is occurring before the world's very eyes have exacerbated these problems even further. Lebanon - one of our member countries - is also under attack. Israel defies international law, disregarding the UN Security Council resolutions and International Court of Justice provisional measures. This war prevents millions from accessing essential resources like food and water - a situation that is utterly unacceptable. With every passing day without a ceasefire in Gaza and also in Lebanon, we are closer than ever to a regional war. This ongoing crisis must end immediately for the sake of humanity. Therefore, a permanent ceasefire and humanitarian access is more important than ever.

### **Distinguished Colleagues,**

To support Türkiye's agriculture and small-scale farmers by using ecological methods, land, water and food are strategic elements defining our national policies and global relations. However, we believe that without water we cannot achieve the sustainability of agriculture. Therefore, water is at the centre of our agricultural policies.

Last year we initiated the National Water Efficiency Campaign with the awareness of "zero loss in water", to continue our lives in a prosperous way without water stress pressure, without sacrificing our needs, and without lowering our living standards in Türkiye. We invite all institutions/organizations, farmers, industrialists, children, briefly, every citizen, to use the water efficiently.

Climate change and the sustainability of agriculture at the top of our agenda. To address these challenges, we have developed innovative strategies for efficient land use, water management and production planning. At this stage, we have determined what to produce, where to produce it, and how much to produce. We will implement planned production practices by this year. We aim to increase agricultural productivity by producing strategic products in the most suitable locations with a water-centered agricultural production plan. With all these policies in place, we aim to guarantee our food supply security and to prevent marketing problems for our producers during the harvest periods.

By implementing these strategic policies, we strive to ensure food security and sovereignty, while safeguarding both our nation's supply and the livelihoods of our local producers.

### **Distinguished Colleagues,**

Simultaneously, it is imperative to prevent our food from loss and waste. Reducing and even preventing food loss and waste constitutes a key objective of the Sustainable Development Goals within the 2030 agenda. For this and for supporting sustainable food systems in cooperation with FAO, we launched the "Save Your Food" Campaign in 2020 to raise public

awareness and successfully achieved two Guinness World Records. We will continue to combat food loss and waste which is an essential step in transforming our food systems.

**Esteemed Participants,**

I would like to stress that achieving a sustainable future is not only feasible but also crucial. We must commit to creating a world that is environmentally secure, food sufficient, resilient to climate change, illuminated by food security and supported by sustainable agricultural systems.

To empower women and youth, guaranteeing their active participation in the system, we offer training on various topics, from agricultural production to entrepreneurship, specifically for rural women.

**Dear Participants,**

To ensure more inclusive food systems and achieve both food security and sovereignty, we must support various sectors in addition to aiding women and youth.

Given Türkiye's strategic coastal zones along three seas, prioritizing the development of the fisheries sector is essential for us. This importance extends to all Mediterranean countries, where fisheries play a crucial role.

Thus ensuring the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources through effective measures against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is a primary goal. This objective is equally important for all Mediterranean fishing countries.

**Esteemed Participants,**

Before concluding my remarks, I would like to address the CIHEAM Strategic Plan 2030. I believe it will be achieved by the contribution and cooperation of the CIHEAM countries, successfully implementing sustainable food systems and ensuring food security and sovereignty across the Mediterranean region. I would like to underline that we are always ready to collaborate in achieving this plan and share our knowledge and experiences in agriculture to secure our region's food security and sovereignty.

Thank you for your kind attention.