



## **CIHEAM Action Plan 2025 for the Mediterranean CAPMED 2025**

***The CIHEAM Action Plan 2025 for the Mediterranean (CAPMED 2025) is designed to promote cooperation activities based on the 15 thematic priorities of its Strategic Agenda 2025 and to initiate 5 unprecedented and regional flagship initiatives through institutional partnerships and co-funding.***

***It builds on the cooperation experience of CIHEAM in the Mediterranean area in the fields of education and training, networking research and support to development; these activities are carried out by its institutes and share common values (multilateralism, bottom-up and problem-solving approach, best practices sharing, expertise tailored to real needs).***

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The Mediterranean region is at the crossroads of political, economic, social and climate challenges thus taking centre stage in the international arena. Numerous transitions are at play and the Mediterranean is one of the main laboratories of the planet where a more sustainable and inclusive development may be built. More sustainable since growth patterns must be more sustainable towards the needs of the population and environmental constraints of the region. More inclusive since development across the Mediterranean shall include territories, stakeholders and fragile communities.

This argument brings about several recommendations that are deeply rooted in the firm belief that investments are needed in agriculture, fisheries and rural areas in the Mediterranean. CAPMED 2025 intends to propose solutions that may back up transition and encourage multilateral initiatives able to pool countries, private and public stakeholders around themes which are at the core of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By promoting the inclusion of food, rural and climate challenges in the Euro-Mediterranean strategic debate and by contributing to the inclusion of agricultural and fisheries communities into the national and local communities, CIHEAM's strategy fits into the SDGs for the Mediterranean area with special emphasis on the « Water, Food, Energy » nexus.

In this context, and thanks to its experience in the field of political dialogue, scientific research, expert training and technical assistance, CIHEAM has worked out a Strategic Agenda 2025 to better structure its long-term cooperation missions. This Agenda is structured around 4 pillars and 15 thematic priorities (see box) on which CIHEAM will lay emphasis in the years ahead by strengthening its activities through interinstitutional synergies and higher budgetary means.



The Strategic Agenda 2025 is completed by 5 unprecedented flagship initiatives launched in the framework of CAPMED 2025. These initiatives have an innovative approach and a regional vocation. They match the Strategic Agenda 2025 and intend to turn the Mediterranean area into an interface between Europe, Africa and the Middle-East. One of the goals of CAPMED 2025, perfectly in line with the spirit of the founders of CIHEAM more than 50 years ago, is to give centre stage to the Mediterranean as a region of development and to overcome the idea of an out-of-control peripheral zone.

These flagship initiatives fit into the CIHEAM mission designed to abridge knowledge, expertise and best practices throughout the Mediterranean basin thanks to intercultural dialogue and scientific diplomacy rooted in tangible and multidisciplinary activities. Through its problem-solving approach, CIHEAM mission contributes to Euro-Mediterranean cooperation policies by combining expert training, research and technical assistance for social, economic and environmental development.

## CIHEAM STRATEGIC AGENDA 2025

### **A. Protect the Planet “by Struggling Against Triple Waste”**

1. Sharing Knowledge and Defending traditional Know-How
2. Managing Natural Resources and Energy (water, soil forests, energy, biodiversity, sea...)
3. Reducing agricultural losses and food waste all along food chains

### **B. Food Security and Nutrition “by Boosting Sustainable Agriculture and Food”**

4. Promoting the Mediterranean Diet
5. Enhancing Agro-Ecological practices
6. Improving food safety and quality
7. Increasing access to food

### **C. Inclusive Development “by Investing in New Generations and Fragile Territories”**

8. Youth Employment and Life-long Learning
9. Development of rural and coastal regions
10. Vulnerable Groups Participation and Gender Equality
11. Emergence of smart rural territories and of inclusive agro-fishing models

### **D. Crises and Resilience “by contributing to tensions management”**

12. Population mobility and Migrations
13. Climate Change prevention and adaptation solutions
14. Animal and Plant Health
15. Agricultural commercial markets



## CIHEAM STRATEGIC AGENDA 2025

### OUR MISSIONS



PROTECT THE PLANET	FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION	INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT	CRISES AND RESILIENCE
<b>Combating Triple Waste</b>	<b>Boosting Sustainable Agriculture and Food</b>	<b>Investing In New Generations and Fragile Territories</b>	<b>Preventing Risk and Managing Tensions</b>
1 Knowledge & Know-How	4 Mediterranean Diet	8 Youth employability & employment	12 Mobilities & Migrations
2 Natural Resources & Energy	5 Agro-Ecology	9 Rural & Coastal Development	13 Climate Change
3 Food Chain	6 Food Safety & Quality	10 Gender Equality/Vulnerable Groups Inclusion	14 Animal & Plant Health
	7 Access to Food	11 Agro-Smart Business	15 Agricultural Markets

#### OUR TOOLS

Education and Training

Research and Innovation

Networks and Open Knowledge Platforms

Projects and Technical Assistance

Policy Dialogue and Partnerships

#### OUR APPROACHES

Holistic vision of Development

Multilateral Approach

Bottom-Up Collaboration

Problem Solving Oriented Projects



## **FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE N°01**

### ***Mediterranean Platform for Policy Dialogue on Drivers of Rural Migration***

The Mediterranean has long been an area of migrations. Over the last few years, the number of forced migrations has grown also as a result of depletion of natural resources, environmental constraints and hard economic conditions in rural areas. Migratory dynamics in the region are both international and internal (within a State or region) often responding to the movement of people from rural areas to coastal cities. In order to understand the root causes of migrations, challenges shall be considered in terms of human development, agriculture, and adaptation to climate change.

To this end, a Mediterranean platform for policy dialogue on the drivers of rural migration could be a tool to make progress towards the understanding of phenomena, identification of solutions enabling a better living for both indigenous and immigrants and economic growth in rural areas and adaptation strategies to environmental constraints. This platform shall encompass a high-level group of multisectoral coordination including national and international decision-makers and a consortium of experts, representatives of public authorities and local actors. Awareness raising, research and studies, expert training, sharing of experience and development of specific programmes shall be the main activities of this platform on the rural and agricultural dimension of migration in the Mediterranean area.

## **FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE N°02**

### ***Mediterranean Compact for Sustainable Agriculture and Food***

Faced with demographic, food and climate challenges, Mediterranean countries must produce more and better with fewer resources. This is a new agricultural equation that the Mediterranean area has to apply in order to improve access to food, quality of products and people's health, while increasing competitiveness and viability especially of small and medium sized farms. The Mediterranean diet, acknowledged by UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage, is based on principles complying with environmental, nutritional, health, social, economic and cultural criteria. Additionally, it can be considered as a development asset which can create interfaces with other sectors such as tourism and gastronomy and contribute to growth and job creation to local economies. It is therefore a major asset even more so if it is included in the strategies of the private sector especially in philanthropic initiatives or social and environmental responsibility. Similarly, the promotion of agro-ecological practices could be beneficial for the countries, on the understanding that these experiences fall within a regional circular approach from the south to the north.

The Mediterranean compact for sustainable agriculture and food intends to bring together several actors (farmers, researchers, agro-food businesses, professional organisations, civil society, etc.) and involve them in actions addressing the sustainable management of natural resources, the efficient organisation of supply chains and higher food security. Based on knowledge sharing and stakeholders' dialogue, this compact aims at decompartmentalizing the approach between research and economic development and at raising the awareness of the youth on the benefits of an environment-friendly agriculture and healthier nutrition. Regional meetings will be organized, development programmes initiated (rural territories will be better connected to markets) and corporate charters implemented (giving a tangible effect to social and environmental responsibility policies).



### **FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE N°03**

#### ***Mediterranean Empowerment Action for the Young and Women in Rural Area***

One third of the Mediterranean population lives in rural areas and one job out of ten is linked to agriculture. The development of rural areas passes through agriculture. This is a reservoir of jobs and incomes for rural people and an essential driver of economic growth for these areas. Women are at the heart of these challenges. Despite their crucial role in food security, agriculture, water and land management, women often have limited access to ownership, education and credit. Empowering women is thus crucial for their growth. Ending gender inequalities and promoting social, technical and economic innovations driven by women are a tool that shows how smart rural areas are alongside sustainable towns and cities. More broadly, the youth of these rural and agricultural areas shall be at the heart of actions encouraging intergeneration dynamics along with social and economic inclusion.

The implementation of capacity building programmes for the rural youth and women in the Mediterranean countries will result in a better inclusion in the local policies, training tailored to their needs (emphasis shall be laid on their rights), support to the creation of enterprises, associations or cooperatives and national or regional networks. These strategies for the inclusion of the youth and women in the rural areas shall be completed by awareness-raising campaigns of decision-makers and investors involved in the human, rural and agricultural development of the Mediterranean area.

### **FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE N°04**

#### ***Training for Zero Waste in the Mediterranean – Natural Resources, Food and Knowledge***

To build the future on the heritage of the past, to improve food security and to protect the planet, knowledge, agricultural production and natural resources must not be wasted in the Mediterranean area. Systemic and simultaneous actions are needed, Losses and wastes are multidimensional (social, economic and environmental) and must be addressed from three different although complementary angles. By combining the analysis of natural resources (land, water, energy, forestry, biodiversity, etc.), food production and consumption (post-harvest, transports, catering services, etc.) and knowledge (empirical, practical or traditional knowledge, technical and technological innovation, etc.), human beings, take centre stage in the strategies of sustainable development.

It is therefore proposed to set up education and training on the sustainable management of natural resources and waste eradication in order to promote food security, agroecology and better development of rural territories. It will be proposed by CIHEAM through its four Institutes jointly with their university and institutional partners, their experts' networks and former trainees willing to contribute to this regional multidisciplinary training. Master courses or expert training (in order to respond to specific needs, including training of trainees) and lifelong courses (e-learning modules may be proposed) will be delivered. The setting up of a virtual platform is envisaged for the exchange of information and interactive dialogue between participants and experts at regional or international level to promote Mediterranean solutions and to learn how to transform the Mediterranean.



## FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE N°05

### ***CIHEAM Affiliated Centres: a tangible contribution to the European Neighbourhood Policy***

For the implementation of its Strategic Agenda 2025, CIHEAM intends to affiliate centres identified in its member States which do not host the Mediterranean Agronomic Institutes (MAI). The CIHEAM Affiliated Centres initiative will be launched in 2017 in order to strengthen regional complementarities in terms of scientific expertise and technical skills but also to broaden CIHEAM institutional network for training, research and development activities across the Mediterranean area. CIHEAM member states are invited to explore this new tool that may boost actions around the 15 thematic priorities of its Strategic Agenda 2025.

Such a process may be considered as a tangible contribution to the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) in line with its goals of excellence, mobility and knowledge-based economy in the Mediterranean region. The latter needs to be renewed through its contribution to the development of the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, adjusted to the needs of North Africa and Near East but also to the needs of the EU member states. The CIHEAM Affiliated Centres could give greater visibility to agricultural, food, fishery and rural issues in the framework of European Neighbourhood policies. These issues are rooted in the challenges of sustainability, inclusive growth, training and innovation in the Mediterranean area. Through appropriate means for the development of this initiative, the EU could also back up research and cooperation in key economic sectors for the youth, job creation, markets and adaptation strategies to climate change

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***CAPMED 2025 is based on the 15 thematic priorities of the strategic agenda and the 5 unprecedented regional flagship initiatives.***

***CAPMED 2025 demands synergies between States, international/regional institutions and actors working for the development of the Mediterranean. It necessitates the mobilisation of additional funding from public and private resources to conduct these initiatives in the long run.***

***In this perspective, CAPMED 2025 is addressed to the EU by which it could be considered as a key programme in its Mediterranean cooperation policy and may contribute to the implementation of SDGs in this region where security and prosperity rely on nutrition, rural territories and agriculture.***

## **CIHEAM**

Created in 1962, the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) is a Mediterranean intergovernmental 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. The Organization mobilises complementary instruments to achieve its objectives: Education and Training, Research, Networks and Open Knowledge Platforms, Cooperation projects, Technical Assistance and Policy Dialogue. Around 170 permanent agents and hundreds of consultants work within the Paris Headquarters and in the 4 CIHEAM Agronomic Institutes based in Bari (Italy), Chania (Greece), Montpellier (France), and Zaragoza (Spain)