

21 October, 2022

Towards more resilient, clean and inclusive agri-food systems in rural Mediterranean areas: a feedback from the regional initiatives of the SupMed project and the CIHEAM Montpellier's Mediterranean Youth.

CIHEAM Montpellier

This note aims to describe the objectives, organizational aspects and expected output of a **one-hour panel** side event that CIHEAM Montpellier will organize within the framework of COP27. This side event will take place in reference to the Food and Agriculture Day that the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation of Egypt will organize on the 12th of November morning.

1- Objectives of the side event

Since 1962, the CIHEAM Montpellier, one of the four CIHEAM institutes, has been leading several development projects and educational and research programs aiming to promote resilient, clean and inclusive agri-food systems in rural areas around the Mediterranean.

Through the organization of this side event, the CIHEAM Montpellier hopes to share the experiences from its two regional innovative initiatives that are conjointly supported by the CIHEAM Montpellier with regional public and private Mediterranean partners. These initiatives focus on multiple levers such as: 1) the design of resilient family household farms by adopting agro-ecological practices, 2) contributing to the emergence of a knowledge network mainly between scientists and local stakeholders which focuses on the use of qualitative and quantitative methods (including models) to design and monitor sustainable agricultural systems in dryland areas, 3) assessing and encouraging the participation of youth and women to attain more inclusive and equitable access to job opportunities in Mediterranean rural areas, and 4) set up territorial farmer agreement to preserve water and natural resources when facing market, food and climate challenges.

2- Organization of the session

The panel session will be moderated by **Placido PLAZA**, Secretary General of CIHEAM. The panel will be composed of:

- **Dr. Ayman ABOUHADID**, Former Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation of Egypt, and Emeritus Professor, ALARI Institute, Ain Shams University.
- **Dr. Thierry DUPEUBLE**, Director of CIHEAM Montpellier
- **Yasmine SEGHIRATE**, Gender Equality, Women and Youth Empowerment Focal Point, CIHEAM
- **Dr. Lamiae GHAOUTI**, Deputy Director of Cooperation, Partnership and Development, IAV-Hassan II, Morocco.
- **Dr. Othman Elshaikh**, Head of the Egyptian Association for Sustainable Development, and Egypt focal point of the SupMed project.

3- Brief of the two initiatives

The SupMed initiative: (2021-2025) aims at proposing and testing innovations based-agro-ecological practices to face the challenges of climate change and water scarcity, to improve the incomes and food consumption of farming households and to reduce the environmental impacts of agricultural activities in the regions of Luxor (Egypt) and Bekaa (Lebanon). SupMed is conjointly supported by the CIHEAM Montpellier and The FFEM (The French Facility for Global Environment, <https://www.ffem.fr/fr>) along

with various public and private partners in Egypt and Lebanon. The ensuring of food security, creation of job opportunities for youth and women and the preservation of natural resources under climate and market uncertainties are the main key questions that this project experience attempts to answer.

Youth for a Sustainable and Inclusive Future in Mediterranean Agri-Food Systems (on going work): As part of the 60th anniversary of the CIHEAM, Mediterranean Youth have decided to formulate a White Paper on the future of agriculture and the rural environment in the Mediterranean. This White Paper is intended to reach public and private decision-makers, and proposes solutions for an inclusive and sustainable future supported by Mediterranean youth. The White Paper will be concluded with a Call for Action that is expected to be widely disseminated particularly during an international event of political significance celebrating the 60th Anniversary of CIHEAM in Montpellier, which will take place on November 28, 29 and 30, 2022. Four interlinked Themes are identified:

- Which rural world by 2050?
- Which agricultural model(s) and food system(s) by 2050?
- What training, research, agricultural extension and support services by 2050?
- Which mechanisms for regional cooperation and solidarity by 2050?