

October 14th, 2022.

CIHEAM Montpellier

Side event on the Conference of Parties 27 (COP27)

When local stakeholders collectively commit to adopt agro-ecological practices aimed at improving the livelihoods of small family farms and preserving of natural resources under an uncertain climatic and socio-economic context: feedback from the SupMed initiative.

This note aims to describe the objectives, organizational aspects and expected output of a **one-hour** side event that CIHEAM Montpellier will organize within the framework of COP27. This side event is expected to take place in November 12th, 2022.

1- Objectives of the side event

CIHEAM Montpellier, one of the four CIHEAM institutes, has always led research, development and educational initiatives to promote agro-ecological based-adaptation strategies to achieve a more resilient and sustainable agriculture in Mediterranean rural areas. Two main principles have always guided its interventions: The first is consistently considering climate change, water scarcity, socio-economic risks and food security as main challenges for the design and implementation of agro-ecological based adaptation strategies; and the second is ensuring the early engagement of local actors and civil society and maintaining their interest at the heart of the decision-making process.

The main objective of the side event is to share the experience of the SupMed project (Collective and contextualized strategies to promote resilient and sustainable agricultural production in rural Mediterranean area) in that regards. SupMed (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 FFEM¹ (The French Facility for Global Environment) 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 preservation of natural resources under climate and market uncertainties were the main key questions that this project experience attempted to answer. The main output of this event will be a list of **recommendations drawn collectively by the different Mediterranean local actors and stakeholders.**

¹ FFEM was created by the French Government in 1994 following the first Earth Summit, to implement sustainable development projects that integrate the preservation of global public goods, international solidarity and innovation in developing and emerging countries. FFEM promotes innovative solutions in the fields of biodiversity, climate, international waters, land degradation, including deforestation, chemical pollutants and the stratospheric ozone layer. All FFEM-funded projects are reported as Official Development Assistance. For over 25 years, more than 350 projects have already been financed, in over 120 countries, including 69% located in Africa and the Mediterranean (<https://www.ffem.fr/en>).

2- Organization of the session

The side event is divided into three connected sub-sessions:

- **Sub-session 1: Welcome speech and presentation of the main project partners** (10 mn, *Thierry Dupeuble, Director of CIHEAM Montpellier [on site] and Aurélie Ahmim-Richard, Responsable Projets Forêts et Agriculture Durable, FFEM [recorded speech]*).
- **Sub-session 2: Presentation of the main objectives of the SupMed project and the role of local actors in the collective design and implementation of agro-ecological based adaptation strategies.** (10 mn, *Hatem Belhouchette, CIHEAM Montpellier, SupMed project leader [on line] or recorded speech if internet problems*).
- **Sub-session 3: Testimonials and recommendations from the SupMed project partners and leading farmers in the regions of Luxor (Egypt) and Bekaa (Lebanon) concerning the main results of the project** (20 mn, *Salem Darwich, project focal point for Lebanon [on line or recorded speech if internet problems]; Othman El Shakeh, project focal point for Egypt [on site or on line]*).
- **Sub-session 4: General debate and discussion of the list of recommendations** which are formulated from the experiences of the SupMed project. These recommendations represent a common vision for local stakeholders and farmers in the Mediterranean to increase their livelihood, sovereignty and preservation of natural resources in the next 30 years (20 mn, *Thierry Dupeuble, Director of CIHEAM Montpellier [on site], Hatem Belhouchette, CIHEAM Montpellier [on line], Salem Darwich, project focal point for Lebanon [on line]; Othman El Sheikh, project focal point for Egypt [on site or on line]*).