

CIHEAM

A Mediterranean Story

(1962 – 2012)





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This document was drawn up based on documents held in CIHEAM's
archives and on interviews with people,
who, with time, have made the history of CIHEAM.

This research work, its synthesis and preparation was conducted
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Contents

Introduction.....	5
1. The time of conception.....	7
2. Birth and Growth.....	17
3. Enlargement and Consolidation.....	27
4. From Barcelona to nowadays: the Turn of the Millennium	37
Conclusion.....	59
Annexes.....	61



Abbreviations and acronyms

AOAD	Arab Organization for Agricultural Development
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CEAS	Centre for European Agricultural Studies
CGIAR	Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research
CIHEAM	International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies
CSIC	National Council for Scientific Research (Spain)
ECSC	European Coal and Steel Community
EDC	European Defence Community
EEC	European Economic Community
EIB	European Investment Bank
EMP	Euro-Mediterranean Process
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
EOEC	European Organization for Economic Cooperation
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FPRTD	Framework Programme for Research and Technical Development
GB	Governing Board
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICARDA	International Centre for Research in the Dry Areas
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IIRB	International Institute for Sugar Beet Research
INIA	National Institute for Agronomic Research (Spain)
INRA	National Institute for Agronomic Research (France)
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MOAN	Mediterranean Organic Agriculture Network
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OIE	World Organization for Animal Health
OIV	International Organization of Vine and Wine
RAP	Regional Action Programmes
SEMC	Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UFM	Union for the Mediterranean
WTO	World Trade Organization

Introduction

The International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), an intergovernmental organization composed of 13 Mediterranean states, celebrates its fiftieth anniversary in 2012.

Fifty years is an important stage in the life of a human being. It is also the time for introspection. Not to regret the time that has now flowed away, but to appreciate the extent of the path walked. Along this path, meetings and events were important. Wishes and projects had to be revised when confronted to the sometimes implacable reality. But if in the course of its life it has sometimes been modified, allowing the development of large meanders, it nonetheless could follow its trajectory. After all, it is man's very character to be able to construct a project launched in a desired direction. Seneca had suggested that *"if one does not know to which port one is sailing, no wind is favourable"*. The wording is endowed with clear directions and strong sails.

CIHEAM knew how to seize this opportunity. For fifty years this beautiful vessel sailed the Mediterranean, searching for favourable winds, fighting against storms but keeping the direction that it gave itself to link Mediterranean coasts. This book tells this story. The story of an organization conceived in a world as it was after World War II and already divided in areas of influence. In spite of these unfavourable winds, those who conceived CIHEAM, the people and behind them, the member states, wanted to take this vessel out to see on the Mediterranean.

Fifty years later, one must pay a tribute to those men and women, to those crews who drove CIHEAM, at times on a sea too calm to move forward, on other occasions too rough not to fear damage. Fifty years later, it is important to look back at the path walked and to measure how the initial project has taken shape. Through patience, with meetings, with reforms too, CIHEAM has known how to keep the heading set by those who conceived it and launched on its Mediterranean journey. Fifty years later, one is impressed to see how much this vessel has been a real ferry plying Mediterranean coasts.

A transmitter of knowledge, of cultures but also of hopes and friendship, CIHEAM enabled those that value the soil on the different sides of the Mediterranean to also enter into a relationship of exchanges and cooperation. Several generations of researchers, students and political actors have boarded this vessel or encountered it during their



navigation. During this story new States came to enrich it and to propel it towards new horizons. One must underline the determining role of the delegates who have succeeded over the years in representing their country on the Governing Board of CIHEAM. While CIHEAM's cartography changed, it advanced with the conviction that agriculture, food and development of all territories constituted the cardinal points of its journey. The experience accumulated during these fifty years allows one to adapt to new contemporary challenges and to overcome present difficulties. After all, the political and financial context in 2012 is no less complex than it was in 1962.

To talk about the past of CIHEAM, is to reveal the originality of this organization but also the inventive strength of people and the courage of the states that backed this endeavour. To recount this story, is to explore the trajectories of the Mediterranean, for the existence of CIHEAM has often been mingled with the political vicissitudes of an uneasy region but always rich owing to its men. To recount this history, is to finally look at the future not to predict what it will be, but to underline the promises it bears if the energies unveiled here continue to be implemented. Of people, of history and of a Mediterranean itinerary, here is the triple dimension of this book based on the key moments of CIHEAM.

1. The time of conception

In creating CIHEAM late 1950s, its inventors were pioneers of the Mediterranean concept. Whether they were conscious of it or not, they were in line with a genealogy that goes back to Saint-Simonianism, a socio-political ideology that bloomed in the 19th century.

A slow maturation

For the advocates of this movement, definitive peace in the Mediterranean passed through prosperity, itself conditioned by technical progress. The exit of all *old regimes* could not be done without the participation of engineers and scientists and knowledge production useful to development (which was to be at the core of CIHEAM's work). Though initially turned towards France, it widened its object progressively in the Mediterranean, considering that the inhabitants of this space had a common destiny. Ferdinand de Lesseps (1805-1894), architect of the Suez Canal, and Michel Chevalier (1806-1879), author of the *Mediterranean system*, are the figureheads of this saint-simonian thought that had become deeply Mediterranean by the end of the 19th century.

At the time when Saint-Simonianism took an interest in the Mediterranean, another geopolitical representation - Arabism - emerged with some Arab intellectuals, before becoming prolific in Maghreb and Mashrek countries during the 20th century. It is this Arab nationalism that would catalyse all liberation movements in the region. In its name Syria, Iraq, Transjordan (soon renamed Jordan) and Lebanon would get rid of the European mandates established after World War I. It is also in the name of this nationalism that Egypt would definitely assume its independence, already effective as from 1923, the Free Officers Movement having deposed King Farouk in 1952, who was very close to the British. Finally, it is this Arab nationalism that would push the Maghreb countries to get rid of the former tutelary powers.

Prior to this emancipation of the Arab countries, the Mediterranean concept could only be seen by the South and by the East as an imposed idea, *a fortiori* unwanted. It is first in the North that its expression, bereft of any colonial whiff, remade itself after World War II, the indirect catalyst of this Mediterranean process being the start of European construction. In a Europe left deeply bruised from the world conflict, some visionaries



of the Old Continent (Robert Schuman, Alcide de Gasperi, Paul-Henri Spaak, Charles de Gaulle, Konrad Adenauer, and Jean Monnet) put forward a vision of a Europe of peace that would exist through a shared prosperity. Is there any need to recall that the construction of Europe derives from this idea of peace? *"We didn't make Europe, we had the war"* Schuman would say in 1951. And though unable to quickly establish integrated institutions, it is by *de facto* solidarities that this Europe began to construct itself, notably with the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), brought to the baptismal font in 1951.

After the threat of an abortion in the construction of Europe following the failure of the European Defence Community (EDC) in 1954, the project was beautifully re-launched with the Treaty of Rome in 1957 setting the basis for the institutionalization of Europe. This founding treaty emphasises the need to accelerate *"de facto solidarities"* with the emergence of an economic space. Given that the economy is a powerful integration vector, the Common Market was thus created. And in a market where the segment of agricultural products exchanged is important, a large Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) had to be progressively expanded.

Other reasons explain this choice of priority given to agriculture. In particular, the food function of agriculture was essential for the stability and the independence of this new Europe. Households dedicated half of their budget to food expenses and the joining countries were strongly dependent on the rest of the world for their supplies. Furthermore, one could not have an industrial drive in Europe without relative salary convergence, where wages were largely determined by the important amount of agricultural items in household budgets. Article 39 of the Treaty of Rome that created the European Economic Community (EEC), on March 25, 1957, stipulated that one of the goals of the CAP is *"to increase the productivity of agriculture while developing technical progress"*. Thus, in order to incite agriculturists to produce a system of guaranteed prices was set. Finally, the market for agricultural products of the Europe of the Six was progressively unified, protecting itself from imports through a system associating Community preference and customs duties at the borders.

After coal and steel had become factors of cooperation, having previously served to make war, it was therefore agricultural products that were given priority in this nascent Europe. But this Europe consisted of only six countries, descendants of Carolingian Europe. As innovative as it was, this Europe introduced a shift in relation to the other territories of the Old Continent. Evidently, the Founding Fathers of Europe did not wish

to limit themselves to the continent. But they saw farther than that. Robert Schuman, in his speech at the creation of the ECSC, stated that the Europe under construction had to facilitate the development of Africa, obviously including North Africa: *“Europe will be able, with increased means, to pursue the realization of one of its essential tasks: the development of the African continent”*. *A fortiori*, Europe under construction did not have a vocation to live separated for long from the rest of the other countries of the Old Continent.

A man, an idea

It is in this geopolitical context of a Europe mobilized for peace and development, that a man originating from a non-EEC country conceived the idea of a Mediterranean agronomic community, the Spaniard **Don Ramón Esteruelas**, whose determination and intuition was praised by the Greek **Albert Simantov** (President of CIHEAM from 1988 to 1992), who in 2002, stated: *“If we exist today, we owe it to **Don Ramón Esteruelas** who, in 1959, with imagination, persistence, perseverance succeeded at the end of three years of efforts in creating this Institution”*. **Don Ramón Esteruelas** was a cosmopolitan Aragonese, an agronomist who became a diplomat, a scientist and a visionary. Born in 1907 in the village of Biota in the northwest of Aragon, he attended higher studies in Madrid whence he graduated in agricultural engineering. He completed his training through an economics degree from the University of Montpellier, before becoming a lecturer at the University of Aarhus in Denmark. Thereafter, his career would take an astonishing dimension, with several high-level mandates in the scientific domain and also in administrative and diplomatic responsibilities. Very close to his country and to his home region, he exercised various functions there, notably as Permanent Secretary within the Ministry of Agriculture of Spain and as President of the Spanish National Institute for Agronomic Research (INIA). He did not forget his geographic origins. In the 1950s, he advocated the project for the construction of an irrigation channel revolutionizing agriculture in his native region of *las cinco villas*, which was to become one of the breadbaskets of Spain. The transition from pluvial agriculture (*secano*) to irrigated agriculture (*regadío*) happened in Spain during this period, with the Pyrenees becoming a water tower to irrigate the arable lands of Aragon.

In 1959, the economic crisis in Spain (high inflation, emigration of workers toward the rest of Europe, industrial stagnation) urged the State, with the advice of the EOEC (European Organization of Economic Cooperation) and the IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) to seek other economic openings, breaking off



from the previous self-sufficient politics that had been followed until then. The visit of the US president of the United States, Dwight Eisenhower, in 1959 underlines the opening of Spain and its new relations with the European and international arena. In this context, the state set as its objective the transformation of its peasantry to create real agricultural enterprises operating on market rules and responding to interior demand, also projecting itself on foreign markets. However, this agricultural revolution could not advance without improving the training of agriculturists and engineers. It was this idea that **Don Ramón Esteruelas** wished to promote in the Mediterranean, with the parallel intention of facilitating Spain to come out of its isolation.

At that time **Don Ramón Esteruelas** had many commitments abroad. Having served as agricultural attaché to the Embassy of Spain in Paris, he was nominated delegate of his country in the European Organization for Economic Cooperation (EOEC). And it was in this structure, where he also held the presidency of the agricultural committee that he found allies in other European countries to advance his idea. Founded in 1948 to implement the Marshall Plan, the EOEC distributed, until 1952, 13 billion dollars of American aid that constituted the motor of the economic start of Europe from the West up to Turkey. Evidently the geopolitical background was not absent, this aid permitting the economic take-off of countries surrounding the USSR in particular and therefore securing them to the United States. After the end of its mission in 1952, the EOEC was not dissolved and turned itself towards economic studies. Furthermore, it began looking beyond Europe taking an interest in developed countries, finally becoming the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 1961, to include developed countries from Europe and beyond.

The idea takes shape

On 8 November 1958, the director-generals of agriculture and the directors of the services of agricultural extension of the Mediterranean countries at the EOEC, following the proposal of **Don Ramón Esteruelas**, recommended for the first time the creation of an International Centre for Post-Graduate Training in Mediterranean Agriculture. The first booklet of CIHEAM, published in 1963, stated, *«Mediterranean countries then spent relatively little in percentage of agricultural income, for research, teaching and popularization of agriculture. However, the evolution of the modern world demonstrates that the disparities in the economic and social development of agriculture will in future depend more on the present disparities in intellectual investments than of*

those in material investments. The limitations of technical and scientific staff trained in modern methods constitute a serious handicap for the development of agriculture, in an immediate future (...) The best way to deal with these difficulties at international level is to look for a close coordination of efforts and a continuous cooperation in the domain of teaching and research, notably through the exchanges of professors and students. It is these considerations that led the Directors of Agriculture of the Mediterranean countries, following a proposition of the delegate of Spain, to recommend during a conference that was held in 1958 under the auspices of the EOEC, the creation of an International Centre for Post-Academic Mediterranean Agriculture whose objectives will be:

- *To dispense complementary technical, economic and social teaching, to the graduates of the higher schools and the faculties of agronomy of these countries,*
- *To conduct studies on the international problems for agricultural development,*
- *To contribute to develop the spirit of international cooperation among the future officers of agriculture of Mediterranean countries.”*

Launched by the EOEC, the process of creating this new organization also involved the Council of Europe (created in 1949 to defend human rights, democracy and the rule of law). A representative of the Council attended the meeting of the EOEC of November 1958. By 25 April 1959, the Council of Europe listed the project on the list of the items to be discussed by the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe, consultation that lasted over two years. Finally, the OECD council, on 30 January 1962, and then the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, on 2 February 1962, invited interested governments to sign the agreement leading to the creation of CIHEAM, which was done at the head office of OECD, the *Château de la Muette* in Paris, on 21 May 1962. It is worth quoting this agreement: *“The governments of Spain, of the French Republic, of the Kingdom of Greece, of the Italian Republic, of the Portuguese Republic, of the Republic of Turkey and the Popular Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, noting that agriculture is the fundamental activity of the Mediterranean basin and that it is desirable to establish, in the domain of the advanced agricultural education, a close cooperation among the countries of this region whose unity rests on geological, geographical, climatic and human foundations; noting that the agriculture of the Mediterranean basin needs to form executives whose qualifications could be developed thanks to a complementary advanced education dispensed by professors of international renown; estimating that agricultural development requires the closest cooperation between the Mediterranean countries; (...)*



have agreed to create under the aegis of the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development and the Council of Europe, an International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies with the objective of giving a complementary teaching, both in economics and in technical domains, and to develop a spirit of international cooperation among the executives for agriculture in Mediterranean countries.”

Unity in diversity

CIHEAM won its bet by uniting several countries at a time when division was at its paroxysm. The Wall of Berlin had just been built and marked the physical division of the world. Furthermore, the founding countries of CIHEAM were then in very contrasting situations, both on the political and economic level. And it was CIHEAM's strength to have been instrumental to allow this process to happen, a process all the more remarkable as Spain opened up economically while remaining under Franco's authoritarian regime. Committed to the *Trente Glorieuses*, France enjoyed strong economic growth in a context of robust industrialization, while on the geopolitical front; she had just come out of the thorny Algerian question. Greece, after a tragic civil war, had just associated itself with the EEC. Turkey was going through an uneasy political period after a coup d'état in 1960, before elections were organized the following year. Portugal lived to the rhythm of the Salazar dictatorship, the economic crisis there obliging a number of its citizens to look elsewhere for work, notably in France. After having experienced internal conflicts during World War II, the “second” Yugoslavia was re-founded in 1945, choosing socialist self-management as an economic model coupled with an authoritarian political regime. Italy, after World War II, underwent alternative regimes, the institutional referendum in 1946 handing victory to the Republicans. But its economy remained divided between the south and the north of the peninsula.

Thus, through this agreement, CIHEAM succeeded in integrating different national realities on the socio-cultural, economic and political levels, the same phenomenon taking place *mutatis mutandis* in the agricultural issue. The countries of CIHEAM included societies that were more or less agricultural. At the start of the 1960s, the share in GDP of the value of agricultural production reached more than 70% in Turkey, 49% in Yugoslavia, 47% in Greece, 37% in Portugal and 35% in Spain. It is in France and in Italy that the percentages were the weakest, respectively amounting to only 17% and 24%. However, these countries were deeply attached to their agricultural sector and to its economic weight.

Behind the appellation of countries called “Mediterranean”, there is nevertheless a distinction to be made between those territories that are predominantly Mediterranean (Spain, Greece) and those where more temperate geographical spaces dominate (Turkey, Yugoslavia, France). In fact, the presence of temperate areas and more Mediterranean areas stimulated the combination of “breadbaskets and barns” on the one hand and “gardens” on the other. Dear to **Edgard Pisani** (President of CIHEAM between 1991 and 1995), this dichotomy would intensify thereafter with the membership of Arab countries. Furthermore, agriculture faced major difficulties in these different countries. First of all, a certain agricultural dualism persisted pushed to its paroxysm in Spain where latifundary structures opposed small exploitations or even landless peasantry. Evident also in Yugoslavia, this dualism stemmed from large self-managed structures (agro-complexes) contrasting with the small private exploitations not reached by the policies of agrarian nationalization. More or less linked to this structural cleavage, the levels of productivity were very weak, especially in the non-irrigated zones, a situation leading to variable food dependencies according to countries and products. France and Turkey were thus the only ones, at the time, to nearly reach cereal and dairy self-sufficiency.

To improve the agricultural performances of all these countries, the founders of CIHEAM, while understanding the strategic role of agriculture in the Mediterranean basin, affirmed the powerful role of agricultural training as a lever for development. What was very original for the time was the concept of educational promotion through the creation of cooperative tools, providing an international system of teaching complementing the national teaching systems. Obviously, if CIHEAM’s vocation was to assist the agricultural development of the founding countries, it nonetheless did not abandon the countries of the South and of the East of the Mediterranean Basin and beyond. Inaugurating CIHEAM’s Bari institute, on 19 November 1961, Professor Giuseppe di Nardi clearly indicated this ambition, in its contemporary global setting: *“The agriculture of the under-developed countries is in a strategic position, and one cannot think it will be supplanted. But for agriculture to become the first motor of development, it must be driven with the most advanced techniques. The training of agronomists is therefore the necessary condition for development; the under-developed countries are threatened by their own demographic expansion. They must overcome the struggle between population growth and increasing its subsistence. The West, with its economic and cultural heritage, is their natural ally. This Centre is among the numerous testimonies of the spontaneous solidarity of the West toward the Third World. Our wish is that the young that came here to animate it with their presence, are seized deeply by the social mission that is confided to them.”*



To measure the reverberation of these words, is it necessary to recall the context of decolonization in which CIHEAM then operated.

This opening to the South began with its close neighbours, thus encompassing the whole of the Mediterranean basin. At that moment, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) started to concern itself with the Mediterranean. Another post-war creation, the UN organization published in March 1960 a report on a “Mediterranean development project”, that was the outcome of a series of studies on the problems of agriculture, forestry and, in a general manner, on the economic development of the countries of the Mediterranean region conceived in a wider vision than just the northern Mediterranean since it included North Africa and the Near East. Drawn up in 1960, this report foresaw that the Mediterranean population in 1975 would be 40% higher than the reference year of 1956, while the deficit of wheat in the region would increase probably in the same period and the production of meat would not meet the demand. The report called for an agricultural revolution in this Mediterranean space, primarily by having more qualified people in the sector. Through CIHEAM, priority was given to producing excellent executives in an original multilateral training setting. All CIHEAM’s member states had to promote the scientific, technical and human promotion of all students, irrespective of their geographic origin.

Starting with two institutes

At its creation in 1962, CIHEAM’s life was shared between the General Secretariat located in Paris and two Mediterranean Agronomic Institutes (MAI), in Bari and in Montpellier. Financed by the host countries, these Institutes were inaugurated some months before the treaty signing in Paris in May 1962. Indeed, the MAI of Montpellier and Bari opened their doors on 18 November 1961, for a first training session devoted to students hailing from member countries as well as from Egypt, Israel, Syria, Tunisia, Lebanon, Malta and Morocco. The travel and accommodation of the students were financed by OECD, France and Italy. Before the choice was made for these two cities, several countries had proposed to OECD to welcome the Institutes. France had quickly decided on the site of Montpellier, Turkey had proposed Izmir in June 1960 and Spain had sent feelers for Valencia and Madrid in June 1960. On its side, Greece had proposed Salonika and Athens in September 1960. Finally, Italy submitted the candidacies of Naples and Bari in July 1960. Progressively, Greece and Turkey suspended their candidacies, and, in March 1961, the only cities remaining on the list were France with

Montpellier, Italy with Naples and Bari and Spain with Barcelona replacing Madrid and Valencia.

Ultimately, the choice fell on Bari and Montpellier, the creation of these Institutes being bound notably to the dedication of specific people. Bari had been pushed forward by Aldo Moro, a politician of primary importance in post-war Italy. Originating from Maglie in the Apulia region, he was a Professor of Law at the University of Bari before exercising a number of high-level political functions (Minister of Justice and Minister of Education in particular) and repeatedly President of the Council of Ministers. This idea was also promoted by Professor Pasquale Del Prete, Rector of the University of Bari, who became the first director of the MAI of Bari, and **Carlo Scarascia Mugnozza** who would become President of CIHEAM between 1983 and 1987. He was a member of the first European Parliament as was René Charpentier who pushed forward the project for the Agronomic Institute in Montpellier. Both followed the same political current (Christian Democrats in Italy, *Mouvement des républicains populaires* in France).

The choice of Montpellier was also born out of a meeting. **Don Ramón Esteruelas** had followed some of his studies there and befriended the Director of the *Ecole nationale supérieure d'agronomie* (ENSA), Gabriel Buchet, who headed the national school gaining its reputation through the success of its fight against phylloxera which had destroyed so many vineyards! (Let's remind that it is professor Planchon of the University of Montpellier, who identified the *phylloxera vastatrix* as the cause of the vineyard blight.) The ENSA of Montpellier had already hosted a branch of the French Institute of Agronomic Research (INRA) in 1949 and the prospect of establishing a Mediterranean institute delighted its director, Gabriel Buchet, who became the first director of the MAI of Montpellier, so that the incorporation with ENSA was then unnecessary. The choice of Montpellier owed much to the intervention of the Member of Parliament for the Hérault constituency, Paul Coste-Floret, a native of the city, and a minister under the Fourth Republic.

The two MAIs were therefore based in large agricultural regions, facilitating on-site visits and research projects. Furthermore, the position of the two cities, allowed an easy access to students and to professors, especially through welcoming visiting professors. Both academies lie at the heart of regions active in large Mediterranean production, notably viticulture and the oleo culture. In fact, the Apulia region was designated by the Italian government as an "agricultural colonization" zone. It led to Bari becoming the seat of one of the largest organizations of land reforms of the country, hosting also



the organization for the development of irrigation and the agricultural transformation in Apulia and Lucania, unique in Italy, in order to promote the development of irrigation. From the Faculty of Agronomy where it was originally sited, the Institute later moved to Valenzano, a town on the periphery of Bari.

As Jean Monnet stated: *“Nothing is made without men, nothing lasts without institutions”*. Beyond the choice of the first Institutes, CIHEAM also endowed itself with institutions intended for its longevity. It was directed by a Governing Board, whose first meeting was held in June 1962, composed of a representative of every member state, serving for a period of four years. The OECD and the Council of Europe were also members with a consultative voice. CIHEAM’s basic structure was thus set, and is still in place today.

The Board votes CIHEAM’s budget, defines its policies, approves the teaching programmes, nominates the directors of the Institutes and the Professors, recruits trainees and grants scholarships. The General Secretariat, located in Paris, implements the decisions of the Governing Board, while animating and coordinating the activity of the Institutes. It is composed of the Secretary-General, the directors of the Institutes and the required staff. There is also a Scientific Advisory Board to examine scientific issues submitted to it by the Governing Board. It is composed of ten high-level scientific personalities (nominated by the Governing Board) of the directors of the Institutes, and of representatives of the Council of Europe, OECD and former alumni.

During its first years, CIHEAM’s financing rested on the obligatory contributions of the 7 member States. This budget was then centralized through the General Secretariat that assigned it to the Institutes according to the decisions adopted by CIHEAM’s Governing Board. From its creation to 1983, CIHEAM’s Governing Board was chaired by **Don Ramón Esteruelas**, for two decades allowing the organization to progressively develop training, research and cooperation activities in the Mediterranean.

2. Birth and Growth

Following CIHEAM's creation, the Secretary-General of OECD, Thorkil Kristensen, paid a tribute to the new Mediterranean organization. But more than that, his words in the preface of CIHEAM's first booklet, published in 1964, were prophetic in that they seemed to announce the present context of a Mediterranean henceforth opened to the winds of democratization, while putting forward the ingredient of its success, the intellectual promotion of people: *"The full use of human resources is one of the essential factors for economic development. Real democracy is only possible if all citizens, without discrimination, receive a high level of instruction and culture. It is the major importance of the scientific policies and of education planning"*. And further on, he underlined CIHEAM's multilateral vocation, since it was, he pointed out, the first organization of this type in the region. *"One must congratulate the founding Mediterranean countries of CIHEAM to have, in a beautiful example of international cooperation, created a new and original teaching to train the engineers and the architects of tomorrow's agricultural development. This common pool of resources for the training of modern agronomists-economists will help, let us not doubt it, to make up for the delay of the agricultural sector, sometimes considered by economists like a residual sector, and by the governments like an object of permanent worries. (...) The creation of CIHEAM is a vivid proof of the awareness of the Mediterranean countries regarding the commonality of their interests and their problems"*.

On his side, Ludovico Benvenuti, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, who also helped CIHEAM at its baptismal font, inscribed in the same document thoughts that still resonate today: *"Seven Mediterranean countries, some very developed, others in full effort for economic and technical expansion, have just united to dispense in common an international teaching aiming to form the experts of their agriculture. By this realization, they wanted to show their willingness to attain in the near future, through an effort of cooperation, a level of agricultural production equal to the nations favoured by history or by nature. The Institutes of Bari and Montpellier already teach the latest technical progress and modern theories of agrarian economics to young people, thirsty for knowledge, originating not only from European countries, but also from the Near East and Africa. (...) It is about giving birth among these young engineers to a new idea, one of international cooperation whose necessity is especially great since all belong to a region that, in spite of its diversities, obeys similar natural laws. (...) CIHEAM is, on the cultural and agronomic level, an attempt of organization and of synthesis of various, but not opposing, concepts. It testifies at what level European countries, conscious that the prosperity can only be global, feel close to their neighbours on the other coasts of the Mediterranean. The Council of*



Europe pushed (...) with all its efforts a work to tighten so many traditional and natural ties that, through the Mediterranean, three continents are united “.

Strengthening the work

Started in 1962, the process of ratification of the agreement for CIHEAM's creation lasted several years. The founding texts required that at least three members ratify the agreement so that it could be enforced. Spain launched it on 9 August 1963 and Turkey brought it to a close on 9 May 1967. France, Greece and Italy, ratified it in 1965, two years before Portugal and Yugoslavia. However, CIHEAM did not wait for the ratification to get to work. From the autumn of 1961, trainees attended 6-months internship at Montpellier and 6 other months at Bari, the two establishments constituting then one single pedagogical unit, a situation which lasted only for two years. In May 1963, the temporary Governing Board (meeting from the 20 to 22 May) decided to separate teaching in the two Institutes. The MAI of Bari was henceforth specialized on regional development and rural equipment, welcoming for that purpose several departments: “planning”, “physical environment and rural development”, “agrarian structures” and “rural equipment “. The MAI of Montpellier, was to concentrate on economic planning and on rural development in the departments of “sociology and development institutions”, of “production and development”, of “distribution, revenues and development”, and of “economic policies and planning”. Progressively, the programmes were modified and oriented accordingly. To meet specific requests, some *ad hoc* relevant courses were held in cooperation with national and international institutions. In parallel, research activities were progressively launched.

After some years of operation, and in order to clarify CIHEAM's scientific policy, a report requested by the Board was drawn-up and examined in March 1965. The influence of this document was to determine and constitute for numerous years the set-up for the organization of studies. Its authors were the Italian Mario Bandini, Professor at the Centre of Agrarian History in Rome, and the French Louis Malassis, Professor of Rural Economics at the *Ecole nationale supérieure* of Rennes, who were also deeply involved in the work on the nascent CAP. Further to meetings and missions conducted at MAI, the two men, who were also consultants to OECD, expressed their convictions concerning the added value brought by CIHEAM through its activities, especially to tuition geared to the needs of Mediterranean countries, while developing a spirit of international cooperation. However, the two professors suggested that the institutions, the statutes

and the functions of the teaching staff had to be better specified. The report also set the foundations for the scientific working of CIHEAM and suggested ways to improve the different cycles (preparatory cycle, fundamental cycle and implementation cycle) for the training provided in one year in Bari and Montpellier. The report also recommended an improvement in the linguistic training of the trainees. On the recruitment of the candidates, the report recommended that preference be given to young candidates pursuing their academic studies. Furthermore, according to the authors, the MAIs were not to limit the recruitment to the graduates of higher agricultural education but to widen it to include engineers, economists, sociologists, etc., whose vocation would be in line with the objectives of CIHEAM and its Institutes. If training had to adjust to the concerns of the Mediterranean region, it was foreseeable and desirable to widen the recruitment geographically to guarantee scientific homogeneity. To fulfil these missions, professors Bandini and Malassis insisted that the Institutes of Bari and Montpellier had to play a key role, in progressively adapting their curricula and methods. However, they also underlined the importance of continuing development of seminars in the other member countries, encouraging CIHEAM to create new Institutes in the Mediterranean periphery.

A 3rd Institute

With the creation of an MAI in Spain in 1969, CIHEAM had its third Institute. After considering Valencia and Barcelona, it was finally in Zaragoza that the Spanish Institute was born. The capital of Aragon offered an interesting observation territory: thanks to the Ebro, this almost-arid region (rainfall is on average below 300 mm there per year) was then in the throes of a full agricultural revolution. In the choice of Zaragoza, one sees, there again, the work of **Don Ramón Esteruelas**. He had already worked for the foundation of a branch of the National Council for Scientific Research (CSIC) on the campus Aula Dei, where the MAI of Zaragoza is currently located. His closeness to José Albareda, Secretary-General of CSIC, himself Aragonese, facilitated the establishment of this scientific branch in 1949 where, for the first time in history, the correct count deduction of human chromosomes was achieved by an Indonesian researcher, Joe Hin Tijio. Already the fruit of international cooperation was harvested in this place. Not only was he the initiator and then the director of the branch, but **Don Ramón Esteruelas** was also the promoter of the nearby installation of centre for research and agricultural development of the Ebro in 1963, within the framework support policy of the OECD for underprivileged regions. At the time of its integration with CIHEAM in 1969, this



establishment notably included a department of teaching that offered tuition in hortofruticulture and in zootechnics. As underlined in the objectives of the Association of the Ebro Research Centre and of CIHEAM, this disciplinary curriculum was distinct from the techniques of agricultural engineering and agricultural economics taught in Bari and Montpellier. From the moment the MAI of Zaragoza was created from the Training Department of the Ebro Research Center, **Don Ramón Esteruelas** and **Raymond Lignon**, then respectively President and Secretary-General of CIHEAM, proposed to **Raymond Février**, researcher at INRA, to strengthen the course of zootechnics there. Until 1975, **Février** took on this task, collaborating with Pierre Charlet, Professor at the National Agronomic Institute of Paris, himself a zoo technician. After his activities in Zaragoza, **Raymond Février** was elected to become President of the Scientific Advisory Board of CIHEAM from 1978 to 1983, and then nominated Secretary-General of CIHEAM from 1985 to 1991. The two academics were joined by Jean-Claude Flamant, a specialist on Mediterranean ovine. The creation of the MAI of Zaragoza allowed CIHEAM to extend its geographical coverage and to complete its educational curriculum with the theme of animal productions (genetic improvement, commercialisation, herd management). The Institute enjoyed a favourable environment benefiting from the Centre for Agro Biological Research of CSIC and soon after from a branch of INIA.

Enriching itself from others

Strengthened by the new Institute in Zaragoza, CIHEAM, as it had already done since its creation, sought new partnerships. Article 15 of the constitutive agreement of CIHEAM reserved membership to Mediterranean States, with the unanimous approval of the Governing Board. The State that joins evidently has the same obligations to those of the founding States, contributing to the common budget of the General Secretariat and sending a voting representative to the Governing Board. CIHEAM envisaged also the possibility of associated adherents. Contacts thus being made in the 1960s. In 1965, CIHEAM's Secretary-General, **Pierre Brault**, discussed such a possibility with Belgium, which declined for financial reasons. Similarly, in 1966, Monaco was invited to finance two scholarships of 8 dollars per day over 9 months. Other approaches to Germany, Luxemburg, Netherlands and Switzerland produced no results.

In 1968, CIHEAM, which had already welcomed Rumanian students at its Institutes, considered an association with that country of the then Eastern bloc, in order to exchange professors and to increase the number of students and reduce financial

expenses. However, the events in Czechoslovakia prevented a delegation of CIHEAM's General Secretariat from going to Bucharest in September 1968. Brazil, interested in the activities of CIHEAM, sent students to the MAI of Bari and Montpellier during the decade of 1960. This initiative further demonstrated that the Mediterranean organization wished to develop relations all over the world. Nevertheless, anxious not to deprive itself of its primary Mediterranean vocation, the Governing Board wished, during that period, to extend CIHEAM's activities to all Mediterranean countries, at whatever status, from association to membership. From its creation and until 1975, about 600 trainees from Arab countries had already been trained by CIHEAM, which in parallel committed itself in research programmes in partnership with national research institutes of the region.

This policy led by CIHEAM in the 1960s, and especially in the 1970s, resonated in the new geopolitical context of the Mediterranean. At the beginning of the decade of 1970, the first enlargement to the countries of Northern Europe (United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark), led the EEC to feel the need to orientate itself to its southern neighbours, around the Mediterranean, and at the same time to better define with them the framework for their commercial relations, in particular in the agricultural domain. In fact, the Heads of Government Summit held in Paris in October 1972, adopted a "global and balanced policy" aimed at the riparian countries of the Mediterranean. This policy had to rest on two pillars: commercial, and technical/financial.

The commercial pillar aimed at developing the exports from Mediterranean third countries (MTC) towards the markets of the Community at preferential conditions. If industrial products could, but with some exceptions, reach these markets almost free of tariffs, agricultural products could benefit from variable tariff reductions according to the degree of self-sufficiency for every product in the European Community. But for the more sensitive agricultural products, different non-tariff protective mechanisms began to be introduced: a reference price accompanied by compensatory taxes, import schedules, contingent tariffs. The second pillar, for technical and financial cooperation, allowed a European entity as such to contribute to the development of the Mediterranean countries, to be implemented mainly through the signing of financial protocols with assistance through grants and loans made available by the European Investment Bank (EIB). However, these agreements did not follow a regional or multilateral approach as was already the case with the Convention of Yaoundé or Lomé with the countries of sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Even though they are similar, the "first generation" agreements between Brussels and the Mediterranean countries were negotiated by the EEC separately with each of the countries concerned.



In so doing, CIHEAM affirmed its multilateral vocation. In the short-term, the principle of association was maintained while coveting a stronger membership, notably in terms of financing. In 1975, in a note of the Governing Board *“on the relations of CIHEAM with the Mediterranean and notably Arab countries”*, it clearly appeared that while full membership of all Mediterranean countries was desirable, it was not definitely required, so that association on a more or less long-term basis could be considered as a good formula. At that time, three Arab countries maintained closeness with CIHEAM. Regarding Lebanon, the negotiations for association were opened in October 1973, Beirut having even shown at a time an interest for the installation of an Institute on its territory. Lebanon witnessed an important agricultural growth in the 1960s, its fruit production being stimulated notably by the accumulation of petrodollars from the Gulf. However, Lebanon gave priority to the creation of a Faculty of Agronomy. As for its association with CIHEAM, it was beheld with the start of the civil war in 1975, but would become effective on 26 June 1980.

With Algeria, cooperation had already been undertaken before the start of negotiations in 1973. Cooperative actions with the Algerian government were already carried out by the MAI of Montpellier and it was foreseen then that they would be extended to the MAI of Zaragoza. Algeria was, at that time, experiencing a full agrarian revolution. After the nationalization of the colonial domains in 1964, whereby 40% of useful agricultural areas had been returned to the country in 1971, the State nationalised large tracts of land belonging to the big landowners. Such vast agricultural areas were meant to bring food self-sufficiency to Algeria and to achieve a more balanced development of the country's territory. As in other sectors, agriculture required the training of experts that cooperation with CIHEAM was intended to facilitate. In 1976, Algeria became the first Arab country to request membership to the organization.

The relations of CIHEAM with the Egyptian Arab Republic were also important since, in the mid 1970s, about a hundred Egyptian specialists were trained at the Institutes of Bari and Montpellier. After the revolution of the Free Officers in 1952, Egypt also made agricultural development one of its priorities, notably launching a large agrarian reform. Thanks to the construction of the Aswan Dam, the increase in irrigation facilitated the widening of the irrigable surface and the transition to two or even three cultures per year on the same land parcel. Given demographic growth, Egypt faced the acute problem of food security, heightening the needs for the training of more experts. Negotiations were favourably conducted through its Paris Embassy. An association convention between Egypt and CIHEAM was signed on 6 March 1982 in Cairo, with full membership granted in 1986.

Regarding Tunisia, talks had been going on since 1973, and it was on 28 October 1980 that a convention of association between CIHEAM and Tunisia foresaw the involvement of a representative of the country on the Governing Board, with a consultative voice, and with one representative to the Scientific Advisory Board. Among other Arab countries, the Iraqi government expressed its wish to benefit from CIHEAM's support, as early as the 1970s. The Iraqi authorities sent for training to the MAI of Bari a large number of specialists on irrigation and on hydro-agricultural development. The development of irrigation along the Euphrates and the Tigris called for specialists that CIHEAM could partly provide. Relations with Jordan, Syria and Libya, remained weak until the end of the 1970s. Syria proposed to establish a CIHEAM Institute in the region of Deir ez-Zor close to the Iraqi border, a suggestion for which **Raymond Lignon**, Secretary-General of CIHEAM in 1970, had been contacted. But Syrian internal politics compromised this possibility. Given his considerable experience in the Near East where he had spent ten years as a civil servant in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **Raymond Lignon** also approached Jordan. However, Amman considered that CIHEAM was insufficiently versed into steppic agriculture (90% of the Jordanian territory is desert) and more generally into agriculture as practised in the Arab peninsula, to allow it to intensify its cooperation. Relations between CIHEAM and the countries of the Arab Peninsula remained marginal although several students from this area sometimes circulated at the Bari, Montpellier and Zaragoza Institutes.

An internal CIHEAM note on perspectives of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and on the role of CIHEAM, published at the start of 1975, pointed out the fact that *«thoughts on the Mediterranean and on the evolving relations between Europe and the Mediterranean should integrate the countries of the Persian Gulf»*. The same note mooted that CIHEAM was anxious not to limit itself to the Mediterranean world. Apart from the ties already established with some non-Mediterranean countries, CIHEAM also started negotiations with international organizations with wide geographical vocations, in order to establish indispensable ties of cooperation thus extending its influence. From 1965 onwards, CIHEAM maintained various contacts with FAO to establish closer collaboration. Every year, FAO would send to MAIs a small number of scholarship holders involved in the carrying out of its projects. Experts from the UN agency were involved in the teaching at the CIHEAM Institutes. From October 1975 to July 1976, a training session in agricultural planning was organized for about twenty Brazilians within the framework of an FAO project in Brazil. Then further to an exchange of letters between the President of the Governing Board and the Secretary-General of FAO in July 1976, CIHEAM acquired observer status at FAO in 1977, a framework cooperation between the two organizations being signed in the same year.



In the second half of the 1970s, CIHEAM approached the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) to set official cooperation between the two organizations. On several occasions **Raymond Lignon**, then Secretary-General met the Director-General of UNESCO Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow, while CIHEAM participated in UNESCO symposia and organized seminars with the UN agency. Similarly, CIHEAM signed in 1974 a convention with the International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV), to create an international higher course on viticulture, and in 1976 it ran together with OECD and the IIRB (International Institute for Sugar Beet Research) an international course on sugar beet in 1976 at the MAI of Zaragoza. Collaboration was also initiated with CEAS (Centre for European Agricultural Studies) at the University of London to conduct research on the CAP, after United Kingdom joined the EEC.

Apart from this collaboration, CIHEAM promoted thoughts on the Mediterranean, notably through the magazine *Options Méditerranéennes* founded in May 1970. Anticipating the technological revolution, the first issue addressed the theme "Agriculture and information technology". Thereafter, the magazine proposed some issues on crops, farming, on land resources, on water and on biodiversity as well as on the threats that already affected them (one counts at least seven items dedicated to these questions). The magazine also examined other problems such as commerce, migration or the construction of greater Mediterranean cooperation. From 1970 to 1976, *Options Méditerranéennes*, then a bi-monthly journal, saw its audience expand quickly. By 1976, the magazine was released in 53 countries and accounted 900 subscribers (universities, libraries and research centres). The American Congress requested, for example, six subscriptions. However, the editorial success did not put an end to budgetary difficulties. After a short period to evaluate the situation, the Governing Board of CIHEAM decided to suspend it at the end of 1976, by which time there had been 36 numbers. The Council of Europe, in its answer to the activity report of CIHEAM, regretted this decision. Fortunately, the publication of *Options Méditerranéennes* resumed in 1981. Since then, the magazine has consistently renovated in its editorial approach and in its graphic presentation.

The Path of Greece

Early 1980s, CIHEAM celebrated a new important event in its history, through the creation of a MAI in Greece, a country that had just joined the EEC, on the island of Crete, in the famous city of Chania, home of Elefthérios Venizélos, revered as the founder of modern Greece. Negotiations between CIHEAM and Greece on the implantation

of the institute began as another native of Chania, Constantinos Mitsotakis, Venizélos Elefthérios' nephew, was then the head of Greek diplomacy. He had been persuaded along these lines by another Cretan, Michel Papayanakis, Professor at the MAI of Montpellier, and who would become a European parliamentarian. When Constantinos Mitsotakis left his functions in 1981 at the time of the political changes in Greece, the project was not abandoned. On the contrary, convinced by the interest of this initiative, the new Minister of Agriculture Costa Simitis – who would serve as Prime Minister from 1996 to 2004 – carried on the realization of the project. On 10 December 1982 the Governing Board of CIHEAM agreed to create the institute, for which Greece utilised a World Bank loan to finance a higher education establishment.

With a fourth MAI created in 1983, CIHEAM widened its foundations and its influence eastwards. With a certain lyricism, Jean-Claude Flamant, President of the Consultative Scientific Committee of CIHEAM from 1998 to 2000, wrote two years after starting his mandate: *«Today Bari and Chania exploit lines of cooperation thanks to their networks that join them to the oriental part of the Basin. The location chosen for Greece in Crete is not without its significance, because it is the land of the European Union that since Antiquity is the most open to Egyptian influences, albeit being able to play on its proximity with Turkey and Near East.»* Not only does CIHEAM enjoy a wonderful structure with 4 MAIs but its offers of diplomas became richer in 1975. After having proposed for over a decade a qualifying training one yearlong as well as short-term training, CIHEAM put in place a degree of Master of Science, which was very innovative at the time in Europe. A proposal first advocated by Manuel Vidal Hospital (Director of Mai Zaragoza February 1974 - March 1975) who was before joining CIHEAM an FAO Economist working in Turrialba, Costa Rica at the Instituto Interamericano de Ciencias Agrícolas (now CATIE) where they were offering MSC degrees. He proposed the degree in 1974 and ad hoc international committee was appointed chaired by Prof Obracevic and the name of *“Diplôme de Hautes Etudes du CIHEAM”* was changed to *“Master of Sciences”* in 1977. This project was particularly advocated by Louis Malassis, who became director of MAI Montpellier in 1974, and who had closely followed the activities of CIHEAM since its creation. Very impressed by the American training system, Louis Malassis had wanted to endow CIHEAM with a degree programme that assured the students an international acknowledgement. The Master degree awarded the best students who completed successfully the first year, becoming then the DSPU (post-graduate higher diploma). The Master degree of the CIHEAM was then created 25 years before Europe instituted the Bologna Process in 1999 with the Licence-Master-Doctorate curriculum. By the start of the 1980s, there were over 4000 students who had benefited from



training at CIHEAM, half in long-term training, the other half in short-term training. If in long-term training in particular, the Mediterranean Member States are the most present, still 25% hail from Arab countries and from the rest of the world.

3. Enlargement and Consolidation

The period from 1983 to 1995 was marked by major geopolitical changes. East-West confrontation was progressively attenuated, notably with Gorbachev's arrival in 1985. The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 sounded the death knell of the former system of international relations that was marked by the domination of the two giants, the USA and the USSR. The emerging scenario facilitated the launching of a war led against Iraq by an international coalition associating Western and notably Arab countries. A New International Order seemed to emerge and the launching of a peace process in 1993 heralded a new era.

It is also during this period that the EEC, welcoming two new Mediterranean states (Spain and Portugal), began to treat the Mediterranean as a separate geopolitical entity, launching a renewed Mediterranean policy (RMP) at the start of the 1980s, pre-figuring the Euro-Mediterranean Barcelona Process. This RMP was first a political gesture, intended to signal to neighbours of the near South that the European gatherings that followed the downfall of the Eastern bureaucracies would not have negative repercussions for them. Moreover, the common market emerging in 1993 that worried several people because of the strengthening of the communal power that it seemed to announce, would have, on the contrary, positive effects.

In this much disrupted context, CIHEAM's history was also marked by some key moments, notably the wave of enlargements that also reinforced its multilateralism. It registered progress but was also affected by political events.

Changing Faces

New members joined CIHEAM at this time, as *"nothing is done without men"*, it is important to recall the personalities who enriched this period in the Mediterranean and in CIHEAM. After giving so much to CIHEAM, **Don Ramón Esteruelas** left the presidency in 1983, and was followed by the Italian **Carlo Scarascia Mugnozza** until 1987. When he arrived at the head of CIHEAM, he was known to have been a reformer in his country. Born in Rome on 19 January 1920, it is in Brindisi in the Apulia region that he began his political life. Elected to parliament in the second legislature, he became a member of the Agricultural Commission in the Italian Parliament. It is noticeable that he actively participated in a number of reforms in the agricultural and rural (new



agrarian legislation, redistribution of uncultivated lands in the big latifundary domains), redefinition of the land leases of the “Coldiretti” (the National Confederation of Farmers) and “Confagricoltura” (General Confederation of Italian Agriculture) areas that aimed to remedy the serious situation that appeared in the immediate rural post-war world. In February 1961, he became concomitantly a member of the European Parliament. In his functions, he especially worked in favour of agronomic research and for consumer protection. His proposals, intended to promote a global Mediterranean policy, had a profound reverberation also within the Community institutions. When he took on his functions, his profile was the right one to replace **Don Ramón Esteruelas**. From 1983 to 1985, he had worked with **Georges Estievenart**, the new Secretary-General, from the office of the French Minister for Planning and Regional Development, and a former civil servant at the EEC. Then from 1985 to 1991, it was the turn of **Raymond Février** to become Secretary-General, after having been Director-General of the French national institute for agronomic research and having actively participated at the activities of the MAI of Zaragoza. He terminated his mandate under the presidency of **Albert Simantov**, another key person in the history of CIHEAM. Originating from Thessaloniki in Greece, he was still honorary director of agriculture at OECD when he assumed the presidency of the Governing Board of CIHEAM in 1987. As his predecessor **Carlo Scarascia-Mugnozza**, **Albert Simantov** was a Mediterranean agricultural expert. Familiar with CIHEAM since on its Board he represented the OECD but was also a member of the Scientific Advisory Board between 1978 and 1982. With the arrival of the French **Edgard Pisani**, it was a politician of great stature who took on the presidency of the Governing Board of CIHEAM in 1991. Several times Minister, twice of agriculture, he mastered the agricultural and rural themes of CIHEAM. He also knew its geographical perimeter: born in Tunis into a Maltese family, originally from Italy, he had moved to Paris at the age of 18, and did not stop being interested in this region. **Edgard Pisani** was also President of the Institute of the Arab World (IMA) in Paris from 1985.

From 1983 to 1995, strong and inspired people succeeded to each other at the head of CIHEAM, in a transitional political context. The arrival of **Carlo Scarascia Mugnozza** to the presidency of CIHEAM occurred at a time of political change in Spain and in France. In Spain, Prime Minister Felipe González was a convinced Mediterranean. In France, the victory of François Mitterrand led Claude Cheysson to the position of Minister of external Relations from May 1981 to December 1984. Aware of the importance of the Mediterranean and the Arab world, Claude Cheysson was very committed to the activities of CIHEAM, supporting **Carlo Scarascia Mugnozza** in enlarging his organization to the South and to the East.

A need for Reforms

Shortly after taking over his functions, Claude Cheyssou officially invited his colleagues of the Mediterranean member states of CIHEAM, to engage in a process of reflection to transform CIHEAM into a real international cooperation organization in teaching, research and development. In this perspective, a reform project was presented in March 1983 to the Governing Board, one that was especially illuminating on the geopolitical and agricultural situation of the Mediterranean at the start of the decade of 1980 as it pointed to: *“The necessity and the emergency to undertake such a reform clearly appears when viewing the general situation that prevails currently in the Mediterranean. One must note, indeed, that, until now, intra-Mediterranean cooperation is not a reality. On the political level, this deficiency is at the same time a consequence and a cause of the conflicts and tensions that exist in the region. The inability of the riparian States of the Mediterranean to master these tensions opens the door to the interventions of the large outside powers. Even though, locally or temporarily, these interventions can be at the origin of appeasements or precarious balances [...], they prevent dangerously the Mediterranean to take charge of its own destiny.”* The report adds: *“the membership of the Mediterranean countries to different and often contradictory regional groups reinforces and strengthens the economic disparities, notably between the North and the South.. To take, for example, the enlargement of the EEC, apart from the heavy and decisive burden to the present Community, on the one hand (and especially to the Mediterranean member countries: Greece, Italy, France), to the candidate countries on the other hand, (Spain, Portugal) place the two coasts of the Mediterranean before a decisive challenge for the end of the 20th century: to find between the countries of the North and those of the South a common development basis, that must be the first application of the new international economic order, and to avoid that doesn’t dig again a ditch that cuts the Mediterranean horizontally. In the agricultural domain for example, the uncontrolled increase in production of the countries of the North and the explosion of food deficits of the countries of the South, must be the subject of strict dialogue, to rebalance the situation, guaranteeing the individual and collective autonomy of the Mediterranean States “.*

Still relevant to an as yet unstable and unbalanced Mediterranean, that report emphasised the contradictory influences that even today affect political reality. Beyond this appreciation of the geopolitical and agricultural context, the report diagnosed CIHEAM. Praising its originality and the road covered until then, the report underlined that *“CIHEAM did not really enter in the field of cooperation and development, whereas it would be able to and should be the efficient relay for organizations and bilateral*



cooperation and that it has the vocation to be an instrument hinged between Europe and Africa". That diagnosis indicated several lines of work to be followed in subsequent years: coordinating the Institutes to better assure complementarities between them; to develop research then considered too modest and "of a more technical rather than political nature"; to adapt training to the needs for the development of the South; to follow-up trainees after their departure from CIHEAM; the active involvement in large cooperative projects; the strengthening of the powers of associated countries. These reform priorities had institutional implications as well as on the *modus operandi* of the organisation.

The manner in which CIHEAM's budget was drawn up during this period, was one primarily resting, as for every intergovernmental organization, on the obligatory contributions of its Member States. The budget is broken down into a central fund managed by the General Secretariat in accordance with common and transversal activities, complemented by several budgets for each Institute (including a subsidy by the respective host countries). The operational financing essentially came from the outside, CIHEAM negotiating its cooperation agreements with other international organizations, such as the EEC, in running development activities in the Mediterranean. These budgetary modalities remained in force thereafter even though CIHEAM gradually welcomed new Member States.

Heading South

Among the priorities that CIHEAM spotted in 1983, one of the first ones was the need to welcome new members from the South. In particular, the report expressly requested to relaunch the membership process for Algeria, initiated in 1976. The Secretary-General was invited to seek closer relations with the countries of the southern and eastern Mediterranean. This diplomatic action soon bore fruit, at least for a certain number of countries. Indeed, the middle 1980s, saw successive enlargements with the membership of Tunisia (29 May, 1985), Egypt (12 May 1986) and Algeria (6 June 1986). Later, in 1990, Morocco ratified its membership to CIHEAM. For all these new member countries agricultural and rural issues were paramount. At the time they joined CIHEAM, the proportion of agricultural workers in the total active population was 30% in Algeria and Tunisia, and more than 40% in Egypt and Morocco. These countries also faced major challenges: land-owning, water and commercial problems were acute, with increasing food dependence. Certainly, important investments in agriculture

were effected, notably with the development of water policies. Thus, Morocco won its challenge by having a million irrigated hectares, an objective that King Hassan II had enunciated, while Tunisia, probably the most hydrographically resourceless, managed all the same to more than double its irrigated surfaces since independence. But the pursuit of this investment effort, often public, came up against the increasing financial difficulties that drove the States to opt for liberalization policies while population growth intensified food demand.

The full membership of these States in CIHEAM constituted a good signal for them. Since the creation of the organisation, these countries had sent many students to the Institutes but with their change in status, they now had a voice in the Governing Board, at the same level as the seven founding States. CIHEAM thus became geographically more balanced, extending its influence through these enlargements. Despite not establishing some MAIs in these countries, the organization fostered new and strong partnerships with some institutions of the countries concerned, such as the National Institute of Agronomic Research of Tunis, the Agronomic and Veterinary Institute Hassan II in Morocco, the Ministries of Agriculture, etc. This affirmation of the role of North African countries within CIHEAM was confirmed by the nomination of the Tunisian **Mustapha Lasram** in 1991 as the first Secretary-General from a southern state. Former director of INRAT, he had before participated in the Consultative Scientific Committee of CIHEAM, and was therefore a connoisseur of the organization when he assumed his functions in 1991. A dedicated Mediterranean, he was familiar with all the entities making up CIHEAM but he also had encouraged persons from different nationalities to enter the teaching body of MAI, giving a more important role to teachers from the southern rim of the Mediterranean.

The path of CIHEAM to the South went through a closeness with international organizations involved in agricultural development, such as the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), an agreement being signed with that body in Khartoum in 1986; and with the International Centre for Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) created in 1977 with the support of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Relations between CIHEAM and ICARDA started in May 1987 on the occasion of the annual meeting of CGIAR and crystallized in February 1989 with the signature of a cooperation agreement notably for the organization of seminars, for the exchange of information and for the coordination of common research programmes. The director of ICARDA at the time was **Adel El-Beltagy**, who became President of CIHEAM in 2011.



The Path to Brussels

The enlargement of CIHEAM to the South coincides with the one of the EEC to Spain and to Portugal. These memberships worry the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Countries (SEMC) because they offered the two new member States very beneficial conditions of access to the European agricultural market. Two types of defence were put forward. The first was proposed by the SEMC themselves, the Community recommending them to adapt their cycles of production to move them towards autumn and winter, seasons when their exports would not risk competing with European productions, more concentrated in spring and summer. This recommendation was followed extensively, as in many countries one witnessed investments and actions aimed at the renewal of orchards, at the adoption of new techniques of irrigation and at new methods of production. In a few years, the offer for many products would move towards autumn and winter, its quality improving appreciably. The second concerned the EEC, which addressed to its Mediterranean partners proposals to encourage their adaptation to the new communal deal. The idea was to permit the preservation of exports threatened by new memberships. In agricultural products, traditional quantities of communal imports were determined for every Mediterranean third country and for different products, in order to align the concessions granted to the SEMC on the transition regime applied to Spain and to Portugal in the perspective of their membership to the Community in 1986, following that of Greece in 1981. Was this effort of adaptation on both sides of the Mediterranean sufficient to remedy the situation and to open new perspectives for Euro-Mediterranean exchanges? It would seem, according to the published studies, that the result was rather disappointing. Indeed, the share of SEMC in the total agricultural imports of the EEC decreased from 20% in 1970 to 7% in 1980 and to less than 5% by the beginning of the 1990s decade.

Despite these figures, Brussels did not turn away from the Mediterranean in general and from CIHEAM in particular. The election to the presidency of the Governing Board in 1983 of **Carlo Scarascia Mugnozza**, who had been Vice-President of the European Commission, was a catalyst for the relations between the EEC and CIHEAM. The Natali-Scarascia Mugnozza agreement allowed the European Commission to have a representative on the Governing Board of CIHEAM. In return, experts from the member countries of CIHEAM were invited to participate in the works of the “Agrimed” group created by the European Commission to coordinate agronomic research. Europe wished to strengthen CIHEAM at a moment when the Mediterranean was gaining in importance. In 1987, **Carlo Scarascia Mugnozza** even presented to the European Parliament a

proposal to make CIHEAM an agency charged by the commission with some agricultural questions related to its areas of expertise. Meanwhile, more financial instruments of the EEC were mobilized to implement its projects, notably in the fields of research.

Research and training for a better cooperation

Scientific and technical projects at CIHEAM accelerated the focus on hydraulics, food and animal questions. To propose innovating teachings, it was necessary to formulate ideas for new research. Apart from the teams mobilized at the Institutes of Bari, Chania, Montpellier and Zaragoza, CIHEAM networked researchers in Mediterranean countries. At a symposium organized in 1986 in Istanbul on the initiative of CIHEAM, a report was produced on Mediterranean agronomic research, which emphasised the lack of coordination in research endeavours rather than the paucity of means: 1,3 billion dollars and 20 000 research-years were thus dedicated to this investigative effort. The symposium underlined the overlap of research that hinders the optimization of means. The report presented during this meeting demonstrated how much real coordination in numerous research efforts would make teambuilding possible, benefiting from a critical size and corresponding means, to tackle big issues. Further to this, CIHEAM organized working groups on a few important agricultural questions with the help of Brussels, notably within the “Agrimed” framework. Cotton, pork, aviculture, milk, the agricultural economy of oases, fruits and vegetables, fodder, potato, small ruminants, biotechnologies, remote detection, were one by one addressed. Ambitious themes, but also a wider palette of welcoming places. These workshops took place in cities as varied as Bari, Chania, Montpellier, Belgrade, Valencia, Zaragoza, Lisbon, Rabat, Tozeur, and Valletta. The scope of these workshops, animated by CIHEAM’s Institutes during the 1980s, enabled a first exchange of information and a review of the situation; all this aimed at having a given specialization to be used in some laboratories benefitting and empowering Mediterranean research leaders in their discipline.

Incidentally these seminars contributed to the rebirth of *Options Méditerranéennes* that included henceforth from 1989 a series of “Mediterranean Seminars” accompanying “Studies and Research” as well as the directory of agricultural economies that appeared from 1992 onwards.

In a context of strong economic disruption in the Mediterranean, in part bound to the membership of the Iberian Peninsula to the EEC, questions arose concerning



the eventual need to conduct agricultural research in the broader economic context. Accordingly, CIHEAM invited Professor Claude Mouton of the *Conservatoire des arts et métiers* (CNAM) to examine the opportunity of implementing a structure to examine in a permanent way the agricultural and food policies of the countries of the Mediterranean as a whole. The idea at the time was to think of extending CIHEAM's activities to the economic domain. After many proceedings and exchanges between the delegates on the report of Professor Mouton presented in May 1989, the President of the Governing Board, **Albert Simantov**, proposed to concentrate the efforts of CIHEAM on the analysis and data of the macro-economic environment determining the evolution of agricultural policies and of the agro-alimentary food sector. The delegates of the member countries did not believe it to be wise to create a new structure dedicated to the analysis of these questions. On the contrary, the Governing Board considered using the existing tools and the networks of national research to develop a transversal approach, more integrated and more efficient. Capitalize on the existing structure, rather than deny the reality that stands!

As regards to teaching, CIHEAM developed its training programme during this period. It is necessary to remember that the four MAI were created at a time when advanced agronomic training was weak and modest in a certain number of Mediterranean countries. The MAI made possible the completion of this training, instilling a Mediterranean character in the treatment of problems and techniques, contrasting with the national pedagogical patterns and curriculum content, pertinent to the U.S.A. and to northern European countries. The success of MAI was thus assured. It was appreciated by the number of leaders, civil servants, politicians and entrepreneurs who had already attended this training. As this situation called for a permanent review on the proposed training and on teaching methods, it was found necessary to diversify training within the Institutes.

At the beginning of the 1990s, the long-term courses (DSPU and Masters of Science) were more and more specialized: in Bari (irrigation and fruit virology), in Chania (Mediterranean horticulture, Mediterranean forestry, integrated rural development), in Montpellier (agricultural policies and rural development; agro-alimentary economics and development) and in Zaragoza (animal production, genetic improvement of plants, integrated rural planning). Short-term training became more and more specialized as the level progressed, the Zaragoza MAI becoming the most committed to this path. At the start of the 1980s, it proposed courses of limnology, of legume improvement, caprine reproduction and treatment of the brucellosis, for animal health. The MAI of Montpellier

proposed short courses since 1987 (information technology and pastoralism) and the MAI of Bari offered a course on advanced techniques of detection of viral illnesses. The MAI of Chania during the 1990s developed its own short courses.

Given the breadth of these programmes, it became evident that some modifications were called for, mainly to avoid overlap in the programmes offered by the different Institutes. A report thereon presented in 1989 by **Mustapha Lasram**, then President of the Scientific Advisory Board, invited the Institutes to introduce these modifications. Following on the report of Claude Cheysson at the beginning of the period, the 1989 document demonstrated that CIHEAM was not averse to introspection in its mission to help in Mediterranean agricultural construction.

Headwinds

This period already rich in enlargements ended with new memberships in CIHEAM. In addition to the countries of the Maghreb, Malta joined the organization in 1989. It is a small archipelago not very suitable for agriculture, with about 1200 inhabitants per square kilometre; it is one of the densest territories in the world, with little arable land. Between 1955 and 1983, the agricultural surface went from 20.000 hectares to 13.000 hectares due to urban pressure. Nonetheless the agricultural and pastoral sectors thriving well producing wines, cheese, olive oil, fruit, caprine and small ruminant meat. The Institute of Agriculture created in 1993 within the University of Malta became a privileged partner of CIHEAM. However, Malta's (and CIHEAM's) interest is not limited to production but also concerns, above anything else, food security. Fishing and fisheries have an important share in the Maltese economy.

In 1992, in full political change, Albania entered CIHEAM. The first contacts with this country had been taken at the end of the 1980's by **Raymond Février** when he took advantage of an unexpected meeting with the Ambassador of Albania proposing him that his country joined CIHEAM. With a surface of 28. 748 km², bordered by the Ionian Sea and the Adriatic Sea, Albania is therefore a fully Mediterranean country of coastal plains backed by mountains, with a diversity of terrains and a very promising hydrological network for agriculture. However when joining CIHEAM, Albania faced enormous rural problems notably on land ownership. After having been nationalized for several decades, the arable land was redistributed to farmers, a measure which carried its own difficulties. Indeed, Albania went on from agriculture composed of large



low productive units to a parcelled agriculture that was essential to increase its output. Evidently the sectors of forestry and fishing, far from being anecdotal in a mountainous and inshore country, were also affected by the disruptions stemming from the transition from a centralized economy towards a free market economy. In these conditions, it was hardly astonishing that Tirana convincingly expressed its need to integrate with CIHEAM. Particularly active in studies of mountain agriculture and related production, CIHEAM offered Albania the means for multilateral cooperation. In return CIHEAM and the members of its network discovered in Albania an exportable expertise and know-how.

Finally, in 1994, Lebanon became part of CIHEAM, a membership intervening after the civil war that lasted from 1975 to 1990. More than 800.000 people had been displaced and more than 150.000 people died in this conflict that the Lebanese often refer to as the “war of others”. During the conflict, CIHEAM was not far away as MAIs welcomed a number of Lebanese students, as, for example, those thirty students who having left Beirut under the shelling in 1989, started their training in MAIs. When it joined in 1994, Lebanon was still scarred, its primary sector paying the toll as well.

Unfortunately this good news (the exit of the war for Lebanon and the end of the isolation of Albania) did not last long. On the one hand, Algeria, a CIHEAM member since 1986, has suffered from a civil war since 1991. There again, CIHEAM was thrown into the heart of regional history, welcoming some Algerians to the Institutes. Indeed, intellectuals, fleeing a situation where their life was threatened, were welcomed to the Institutes where their expertise was valued as teacher-researchers. The other bad news came from the Balkans, where wars provoked the break-up of Yugoslavia during the 1990s, CIHEAM consequently losing one of its founders. The organization henceforth counts 13 member States. It is in this configuration that the end of the 20th century approached.

4. From Barcelona to nowadays: the Turn of the Millennium

Making a Success of the Euro-Mediterranean Region

An event that proposes itself as the foundation of the Mediterranean of the 21st century, the Euro-Mediterranean conference held on 27 and 28 November 1995 in Barcelona constituted a determining moment. Indeed, for the first time, the foreign ministers of the 15 member States of the EU and 12 Mediterranean countries met to engage in new regional dynamics. Bipolarity gone, the progressive joining of the world around large more or less integrated, regional poles, imposed itself on the international agenda. To adapt to the emergent multiplicity, Europe realised that she must reinforce its ties with the East of the continent and with the Mediterranean Basin. Favoured by communal dynamics drawing the contours of a powerful Europe, that was preparing to print a common currency and ready to make its weight felt on world affairs, European enlargement became clearer.

For the South, it was the formula of a partnership that was preferred, except for Cyprus and Malta which, from 2004, became part, together with the countries of central and eastern (PECO) Europe, of the group of ten new member States entering the EU. The Barcelona Process, launched in 1995, proposed to reinforce relations in three domains, the political and security area, socio-economic issues and cultural dialogue., this Partnership Incontestably made possible the creation of a framework of privileged relations between the European Union and the countries of the South and the East of the Mediterranean, extending and deepening the Mediterranean policies of Europe initiated in the 1970s. To stimulate the idea of forming a new regional pole, one spoke henceforth of the Euro-Mediterranean process.

Barcelona sounded therefore like a new start for the Mediterranean. Through the presence of its Secretary-General, **Mustapha Lasram**, CIHEAM participated as an observer at this conference, which comforted its intuition, since the 1980s, of enlargement to the countries of the South and the East of the Mediterranean.

However, agriculture was not at the centre of the priorities of cooperation of the Barcelona process. While it was agreed to implement a Euro-Mediterranean free trade zone by 2010, with some negotiations leading to the opening up of regional trade in a certain number of products, agricultural commodities were excluded, a situation still not



understood by the countries of the South and the East of the Mediterranean considering the place of agriculture and food in these societies and in their economies. Indeed, the general climate at the turn of the millennium did not always encourage attention to agricultural sector and rural affairs.

Bringing together the Ministers of Agriculture of CIHEAM

In order to increase the sensibilization of decision-makers in the region, the Italian authorities, having always professed to put agriculture at the heart of Mediterranean relations, concretized an idea already advanced in 1993 by **Edgard Pisani**: the meeting of the ministers of the member states of CIHEAM. Such an initiative would fill a void in Euro-Mediterranean cooperation but would also heighten CIHEAM's work, favouring political dialogue in the region. The Presidents of CIHEAM, the Portuguese **Jeronimo Godinho-Avo** (1995-1999) and the Maltese **Salvino Busuttil** (1999-2003) together with the Italian Secretary-General **Enzo Chioccioli** (1997-2003) endeavoured to advance this project. The operation was not simple. The talents of diplomats and a lot of determination were necessary so that such a Mediterranean multilateral meeting could occur. By May 1999, it happened. To the invitation of Paolo de Castro, Italian Minister of Agriculture, who played a decisive role, the 13 member states of CIHEAM met in Rome. Although informal, this meeting stimulated an exchange of views and a sharing of knowledge between the decision-makers present in an atmosphere of trust. This initiative offered the opportunity to identify the major problems facing Mediterranean agriculture, but also identified the expectations of the farmers in the region, sketching useful proposals that were to be developed or even negotiated in the competent institutional outfits. On the eve of this meeting in Rome, the delegations met the Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, who, a short time later, was elected President of the European Commission. A big defender of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, he knew that agricultural questions had to have their place in relations between riparian countries.

Discussions in Rome centred on the processes of adaptation of agriculture in a context characterized by the start of a new phase of reforms, both at the European and at the international level. Indeed, after the difficult negotiations of GATT (General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs) in the setting of the Uruguay Round, that had introduced the mechanisms to reduce public aid through systems of agricultural subsidies, a new set of negotiations appeared necessary in the context of the new World Trade Organization (WTO) created in 1994 in Marrakech in Morocco.

With the widening of its competencies, WTO continued to have as sole mission to accelerate internationalization while assuring the mastery of its consequences. Once it was integrated in the framework of the Uruguay Round in the common process of liberalization of exchanges, agricultural trade, a decisive stake in the negotiations, was at the core of the “*development cycle*” launched in Qatar, Doha in 2001. It foresaw ambitious negotiations notably on the improvement of access to agricultural markets, but commercial interests and deep divergences concerning agricultural subsidies put to pains the mandate of the development cycle blocking all negotiations and encouraging the proliferation of damaging bilateral agreements to the countries of the South. Facing this situation and to promote the modernization of agriculture in the same way as in the Mediterranean, CIHEAM was invited by the European Commission to contribute to an examination of issues concerning negotiations on the liberalization of agricultural trade.

To that effect, a whole set of financed research programmes instigated CIHEAM to develop analyses and impact studies on Euro-Mediterranean exchanges, such as the EUMED-AGPOL project in the setting of the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technical Development (FPRTD). Once more, thanks to its networks, CIHEAM proved its ability to mobilize experts from the Mediterranean periphery while inducing them to work together on various and varied scientific programmes, within the whole thematic agricultural spectrum. It must be underlined that CIHEAM owed much of the increase of its global budget to the successes it registered in the 6th and 7th FPRTD. Such studies showed the real willingness of CIHEAM to put reflection and knowledge always at the service of cooperation.

Apart from the progress of science and the training of human capital, assisting in decision-making was a strategic desideratum for CIHEAM. Its report published in 2001 where all the notes and essays of Jean-Claude Flamant, President of the Scientific Advisory Board from 1998 to 2000, were compiled, provided a series of reflections on the action of CIHEAM and of its Institutes to enter efficiently into the new century. Besides considerations on the scientific activities of teaching and research, Flamant notably describes CIHEAM as “*having a very good brand, as is revealed in its capacity to mobilize high-level personalities of its own initiatives, with the interest of its intergovernmental status*”. This report clearly echoed the launching of the ministerial meeting of CIHEAM. After Rome in 1999, meetings have been held regularly around the Mediterranean coasts. The second ministerial meeting took place in May 2000 in Rabat, Morocco, the third in Athens, Greece in June 2001 and the fourth in Lebanon, Beirut in September 2002.



Entering a New Century with Confidence

CIHEAM therefore entered the 21st century with this insatiable desire to develop its activities without altering the philosophy of its action and its mission as enunciated by the mandate at its creation in 1962. The working methods affirmed themselves. Based on the accumulation of experiences, they enabled CIHEAM to present itself as a project incubator, a platform for exchanges and a great reflector of Mediterranean diversity. The passion for difference and this taste of the other constitute common character features among most persons who on a daily basis live CIHEAM's work. Behind the sharing of the knowledge it is also, and especially, the wealth of the human exchanges that animate the organization, as much as through cultural exchanges among the students as through the sharing of expertise and know-how among the scientists.

During the very symbolic 100th Board Meeting of CIHEAM held in Malta in December 1999, a round table was organized on the theme *"CIHEAM as an actor for development in the Mediterranean region at the dawn of the third millennium"*. **Albert Simantov**, who was President between 1988 and 1992, stated on this occasion that CIHEAM *"well fulfilled its original mission when one considers the big changes operated since 1962. It is also through making the responsible persons for agricultural policies and rural development together that, progressively, the conscience of belonging to a same whole with a common future will take shape"*. This feeling of membership in the same community, one would be tempted to speak even of family if one privileged the lexical warmth of the Mediterranean world, was made possible *"by the thousands of trainees that passed through the structures of CIHEAM and that form its best resources on which one should lean on to move forward"* according to the terms used then by Secretary-General **Enzo Chioccioli**. And as **Salvino Busuttil** would say, on the occasion of this meeting in his country, *"CIHEAM is not only a forum for dialogue; it is a fundamental entity for progress"*.

This role of CIHEAM, in favour of human exchanges and knowledge-sharing, proved to be determinant again when the world entered the new millennium disorientated by the terrorist attacks in the United States in 2001, in Morocco in 2003 or in Spain in 2004. The geopolitical consequences of these dramatic events were immense for the Mediterranean region where misinterpretations and misunderstandings intensified.

Celebrating the Fortieth Anniversary in Brussels

The organization of a large seminar in Brussels on 6 June 2002, to mark the 40 years of CIHEAM, illustrated the excellent relations that the organization maintained with European institutions. Romano Prodi pronounced robust words, when he stated: *"Your organization is deserving and important because it translates in practice some values, methods and objectives that are vital for the renewal of the Mediterranean lifestyle. The methods that you use are exemplary. They rest on a relationship of equal collaboration that we need in the Mediterranean (...). CIHEAM has progressed a lot. It has been conceived initially as an organism for technical and economic training for the experts of agriculture in the Mediterranean. Over the years, it grew in its themes at a structural level, on the political level and adapted its training offer, but also of support, for research to the needs of agriculture of the Mediterranean countries. (...) On the political level, it is progressively opened up to the countries of the south coast and transformed itself into an instrument of cooperation. (...) We ask you all from CIHEAM, and through your annual political dialogue with the ministers of agriculture of your member countries to bring your reflections in this sector, a realistic contribution, because CIHEAM has the merit to have given birth to a permanent political dialogue at the level of the ministers of agriculture of the current thirteen member countries. (...) On these fields, CIHEAM renders to Europe and to the countries of the Mediterranean a service unanimously recognized"*.

The Algerian Minister of Agriculture, Saïd Barkat, expressed there his deep recognition towards CIHEAM, and especially to the Montpellier Institute, where several experts had been involved in drawing up new policies for the agricultural and rural development of his country, to re-launch the sector following the civil war. The Egyptian Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Mahmoud Abu Zeid, lauded CIHEAM in a similar way, and notably the Bari Institute, as a tool of Mediterranean cooperation on the management of water resources. Always supportive of the activities of the organization, Abu Zeid took advantage of this seminar to underline the amplification of water tensions in the countries of the region, stressing the strategic ties between water, agriculture and societies. Jacques Diouf, the Director-General of FAO summed up the seminar by emphasising the state of institutional collaboration with CIHEAM, evoking the considerable results in the domain of Mediterranean forestry and notably the management of peaches. In his remarks to the gathering, **Edgard Pisani**, a former CIHEAM President, translated the fears at the time expressed by the Mediterranean countries on the enlargement of the EU to the East.



Europe, the Common Agricultural Policy and the Mediterranean

In 2000, the EU was confronted with several important challenges including the objective of reinforcing and to enlarging the Union. It agreed to return to Agenda 2000, adopted in Berlin in March 1999 that identified a series of reforms of communal policies, mainly of the CAP and of its structural funds. These reforms allowed the EU to address agricultural competitiveness and the related delicate negotiations on the new millennium cycle of the WTO. The reform of the CAP in Agenda 2000 was completed by a regulation on rural development to fully achieve the potential of people in their respective territories. Several CIHEAM reports, studies and seminars insistently dwelt on the place of agriculture in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, linking it to the CAP of the 21st century. These same messages were expressed at high-level meetings during the different conferences of the ministers of CIHEAM.

Little by little, the idea to organize the first Euro-Mediterranean ministerial conference on agriculture started to take shape. Eight years had to pass, from the Declaration of Barcelona, to reach such an objective. Italy essentially pushed with determination, taking advantage of the presence in Brussels of Romano Prodi as the head of the European Commission. In Lebanon in September 2002, on the occasion of the 4th meeting of the CIHEAM ministers of agriculture, the Italian Minister Giovanni Alemanno announced that his country was going *“to dedicate the semester of the Italian Presidency of the European Union to agricultural problems and to fishing in the Mediterranean and to organize in the second semester of 2003 a Euro-Mediterranean conference on agriculture and fishing”*. In November 2003 Venice hosted what remains today the only and unique meeting of the ministers of agriculture of the EU and the Mediterranean countries with 43 countries present, including Israeli and Palestinians delegations. The main recommendations centred on the strengthening of rural development, the promotion of the quality of agricultural products and the launching of specific actions in the domain of organic agriculture. At the request of the Italian authorities, the preparation for this meeting had been handled in part by the Bari Institute, driven by the vision and enthusiasm of its director, Cosimo Lacirignola, named by the Italian minister as interface to the ministry in Rome and charged with the organization of the conference. It was another mark of trust and the proof of a deep recognition of both the scientific and diplomatic work of CIHEAM. Furthermore, on the eve of the Venice conference, an informal meeting was held in the presence of representatives of the Italian presidency of the EU, of the European Commissioner for agriculture, Franz Fischler, as well as of the Lebanese **Mouïñ Hamzé** and of the French **Bertrand Hervieu**, respectively President and Secretary-General of

CIHEAM. Present in spirit and identified in most of the official speeches during the Venice conference, CIHEAM was recognized throughout as having contributed to re-dynamise the impetus of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and reflection. It was through this momentum, and at the request of the Governing Board, that a series of consultations were conducted between 2004 and 2006 with some countries of the region in order to consider their possible membership to CIHEAM. Syria, Croatia and the Republic of Cyprus were concerned, the latter having already submitted its candidacy in 1983 and in 1993. In spite of the undertaken efforts to several Embassies by President **Salvino Busuttil** and Secretary-General **Enzo Chioccioli** and subsequently by their successors **Mouïñ Hamzé** and **Bertrand Hervieu** respectively President and Secretary-General, the negotiations could not move forward because of the political differences dominating some zones of the Mediterranean region. Even though the question of enlargement remained regularly evoked (the Republic of Cyprus deposited two other candidacies in 2007 and in 2009), CIHEAM dedicated to reinforce, using other modalities, its relations with non-member countries.

Establishing agriculture at the heart of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation

Given the good results of the Venice conference as the celebration of the tenth birthday of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership approached, a new and more pragmatic phase, was entered into on regional agriculture. Accordingly, at the 5th Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of CIHEAM in December 2004 in Paris, the proceedings were oriented towards *“the Mediterranean, a specific area of production and exchange of agricultural and agro-food products”*. To pursue its strategy and to maintain the on-going dynamics, CIHEAM organized joint seminars with the European Commission in Cairo in February 2006 on rural development, then in Rabat in March 2006 on research, establishing flagpoles for the future ERA-Net to coordinate agronomic studies in the Mediterranean (ARIM-Net). In Strasbourg, in September 2006, CIHEAM also co-held a conference on Euro-Mediterranean relations and agriculture with the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP).

The presence of the European commissioner for agriculture, Mariann Fisher-Boel, at the 6th Ministerial Conference of CIHEAM in Cairo in December 2006, was eminently important and testified once again to the role of regional resonance that this informal



meeting radiated. More conscious than ever of the strategic role of agriculture in the Mediterranean, the EU decided to open negotiations in 2006 with its Mediterranean partner countries on the liberalization of agricultural exchanges. Since the theme of the 6th Ministerial Meeting was turned mainly towards the question of Euro-Mediterranean trade, Mariann Fisher-Boel came to Egypt to present the roadmap of the Commission. She lauded, *“the first class intellectual contribution”* of CIHEAM in all strategies deployed by the EU in the domain of agriculture, research and the management of the natural resources in the Mediterranean. Several ministers of the southern and eastern Mediterranean insisted on the evaluation of the social consequences of a liberalization of agricultural exchanges on small domestic exploitations, extensively dominating the rural landscape of their countries.

An improved and consolidated training offer

To reinforce its training programme and to complement the pedagogy offered by the Institutes, CIHEAM adapted naturally to Euro-Mediterranean academic dynamics. Indeed, the reform engaged by the Bologna Process proposed to link higher training in three distinct cycles: Bachelor, Master and Doctorate. At the time of the deliberations of the December 2003 Governing Board, the General Secretariat had been asked to implement the modalities of management and of the content of the graduate training curriculum of CIHEAM to conform to the standards recommended by the Bologna Process. Signed in June 1999 by 29 countries of the European area to harmonize their degree courses and to adopt a common diploma system in order to make clearer and comparable academic ranking, the Process wanted to ensure teaching quality and student mobility. Accordingly, the General Secretariat conducted a clarification and a harmonization of CIHEAM's Master degree programme. To this end, an adjustment to the Master's degree course was effected and the product is still today a unique training tool that offers a complete and detailed vision of the teaching provided at the Institutes. For the academic term 2011-2012, CIHEAM proposed 21 different Masters cycles, linked around four priority areas: food production and quality management; the environment and the management of natural resources; the economics, management and policies of development; fishing and aquaculture.

While improving the contents, the credits structure and the transparency of its Master of Science course, CIHEAM continued, along with other member countries, its work for the recognition of the equivalence of its diplomas. Hence, during the second

semester of 2006, a decision was taken by Spain, published in the Official Bulletin of the State whereby a royal decree recognized the Master of Science delivered by the institute of Zaragoza, thus recognizing *de jure* CIHEAM's diploma. This result was the produce of the work conducted by the MAI of Zaragoza while Luis Esteruelas, the son of the founder of CIHEAM, was director. Subsequently, Turkey and Egypt, in 2007, Lebanon in 2008 and Albania in 2009 officially recognized the diploma delivered by CIHEAM. This process continues, aiming simultaneously to develop agreements on co-diplomas and on co-accreditation of training, in order to have a transnational process sustaining the Mediterranean mission of CIHEAM's courses. It proved to be more and more important for CIHEAM to advance on the question of the doctoral degree while efficiently associating with institutional partners and research entities in the countries of the region. Since 2006, in Montpellier, about sixty PhD students have been welcomed, receiving about 700 months of doctoral grants. An increasing proportion of CIHEAM Master Graduates from the four institutes end up receiving PhD degrees from associated high education institutions.

All these objectives fall in line with CIHEAM's mission to be complementary to the courses proposed in each of the countries of the region and to differentiate in its training programme. At the European Union level, 20.000 Masters were proposed in 2010. Appreciating this explosion in the number of Masters, CIHEAM is deeply aware that training constitutes the first of its cooperation instruments. Since the creation of CIHEAM, about 15.000 students have followed long-term courses (Master of Science). Similarly, specialized cycles allowed professionals and decision-makers to benefit through short courses of intensive teaching which continued to diversify and enrich CIHEAM's mandate. Destined for a public keen ingoing deeper into knowledge, in a specific domain, these courses enabled CIHEAM and its Institutes to always appear receptive to the needs of the countries or of the agents of the private sector, thus illustrating further the suppleness and the flexibility of the organization. Close to 20.000 people coming from 141 different countries have received professional specialized training since 1963. Thus, although three-quarters of the students that underwent training at CIHEAM hail from the member countries of the organization, yet countries such as Germany, Argentina, Chile, China, Ivory Coast, the United States, Ethiopia, Gabon, Iraq, Netherlands, Sudan, Syria and Senegal also sent people to train at CIHEAM's Institutes.

Interns and students benefit from a framework of high-level teacher-researchers, chosen according to their areas of expertise and to their professional experience. This



diversity contributes to develop with the interns “a spirit of international cooperation” as wished by the founders of CIHEAM. Furthermore, on the financial level, every year the Institutes bestow nearly 700 grants to interns, researchers and professionals of member countries. The Scientific Advisory Board of CIHEAM, whose role was redefined by **Mustapha Lasram** at the start of the 1990s, also proposed to the Governing Board the assignment of a prize for the best Master of Science thesis of CIHEAM.

Several former students of CIHEAM now serve their country by elaborating public policies in the agricultural, environmental and economic domains. Some personalities were CIHEAM alumni, including the present European commissioner of agriculture, the Rumanian Dacian Ciolos, who followed part of his degree course at the MAI of Montpellier. Many former students of the MAI of Zaragoza, who received their specialized professional training, are today leaders in large multinational agro-alimentary companies.

Improving know-how

The courses provided at the Institutes have undergone deep improvements, adapted to an era of new information technology and of communication. In 2003, the Bari Institute launched a programme of remote-learning courses allowing several hundreds of students to receive training. The Centre put at the heart of its training policy knowledge-sharing with constantly optimized and improved publications in answer to a constantly evolving demand. Thus, *Options Méditerranéennes*, the historic magazine of CIHEAM, experienced a deep restructuring that led it to publish the minutes of seminars organized by the Centre and its Institutes and to disseminate studies and research concerning the Mediterranean agricultural sector.

CIHEAM’s annual report, published from 1999 onwards with the *Mediterra* brand since the 2007 edition, has consolidated CIHEAM’s place in the general discussion on the strategies of Euro-Mediterranean regional cooperation, proposing some analyses on the wider agricultural, food and rural stakes. Available in Spanish, French and English, the report has sometimes also been published in Arabic and in Italian. It constitutes a basis of support to decision-making for policy makers of the region and a sum of unique knowledge for researchers, students and journalists. One must recognize Secretary-General **Bertrand Hervieu**’s (2003-2009) efforts to professionalize this publication, optimising its content and reinforcing the involvement of CIHEAM experts in this scientific production in order to benefit from their expertise.

Apart continuing the journal *New Medit* published by Bari, CIHEAM has endeavoured to develop its Internet sites, including those of the Institutes and of the General Secretariat. For the latter, from 2007, the policy deployed consisted in integrating the Mediterranean Observatory of CIHEAM, created at the beginning of the 2000s at the request of the member countries, within the institutional site where important information on the mission and actions of CIHEAM appear. To nourish its dynamic communication, CIHEAM enriched the Observatory while always collecting more analyses and information on the current situation on the agriculture of the Mediterranean basin. From 2007 onwards, CIHEAM has published a quarterly *Watch Letter* dedicated to important Mediterranean challenges, also giving the opportunity to disseminate regular information on CIHEAM's work.

Through the spectacular growth of electronic exchanges, CIHEAM has improved the structuring of its relations with former students as well as with experts in its different networks and throughout the partner organisations in the region. Obviously, these modern communication technologies have increased synergies and the sharing of information among CIHEAM experts. However, since the human exchange in the Mediterranean endures as an unchangeable value, some meetings are regularly organized among CIHEAM experts to harmonize either the training curriculum, or accounting procedures or publications. On three occasions, in Chania in September 2005, in Bari in September 2007 and in Montpellier in September 2009, several CIHEAM experts met during two days for an internal seminar to cultivate the institutional spirit and mutual knowledge. At decisional level, this same will to share action and to advance in a common movement, is already present through the meeting, every semester, of the four directors and the staff of the General Secretariat and, of course, of the Governing Board, which convenes twice a year so that delegates of the Member Countries can make decisions concerning the management and the strategy of CIHEAM.

Modern campuses, turned towards the Mediterranean

The MAI of Montpellier, located at the heart of the scientific research platform on agriculture and food, Agropolis, a major scientific asset of the Languedoc-Roussillon region, started in 2005 to renovate its infrastructure while launching the construction site of a Mediterranean campus. Through the determination of its director Vincent Dollé and of his collaborators, the campus was fully modernised and in January 2009 was inaugurated by Michel Barnier and Amin Abaza, respectively the French and Egyptian



ministers of agriculture, in the presence of the members of the Governing Board of CIHEAM and of the staff of the Institute. During the inauguration, the students delivered a message concerning the importance of the dialogue between cultures, the circulation of ideas and the mobility of people. *“We long for the Mediterranean to be not only a sea that separates the countries of the northern and southern coasts, but that it constitutes before everything else a real ark between the peoples. This union between Mediterranean territories must not only materialize through an exchange of goods and capital, but also through the protection of the environment as well as by the mobility of people and knowledge. In this setting we would wish that the mobility of students and researchers of the whole Mediterranean periphery be simplified concretely so that the cultural alchemy that you witness here can occur again elsewhere “.*

This policy to modernize and to constantly adapt the infrastructures of CIHEAM also applies to all the Institutes. The Institute of Bari increased its premises, expanding its capacities during the 2010 decade. In Chania, the evolution of the structure owes much to the dedicated energy of its director Alkinoos Nikolaidis. The strong symbol of this infrastructural policy remains in the opening in 2007 of the Poséidon conference centre, later named the **Albert Simantov** Centre in memory of the former president of CIHEAM who died in 2011. A strong sign of the growing attraction of the Institutes was the number of student demands for admission which increased every year. The Institutes were honoured with visits from political personalities, such as: the Italian President Giorgio Napolitano to the MAI of Bari in September 2006 and the Greek Prime Minister, Constantinos Simitis in January 2001 and George Papandreou in December 2010 to the MAI of Chania.

The return of agriculture on the international scene

Considered in the last third of the 20th century as a retrograde sector, one on which one could not rely for the future, agriculture re-surfaced on the international chessboard during the first decade of the 21st century. The demographic growth of the planet, the evolution of food regimes and the rarefaction of natural resources, recomposed the agricultural problematic to such an extent that old Malthusian fears resurfaced. In the spring of 2008, the world rediscovered the fundamental importance of agriculture when a series of political, social and economic crises conjugated together. The brutal rise in the price of staple products created a real food crisis in numerous countries. Intervening after a period where agricultural matters were rarely present in international policies, the

price shock sounded like a warning for those who had forgotten that food constraints constituted the oldest and most daily of concerns for human beings.

In this global context, the Mediterranean epitomises world food tensions. The emblematic example of the cereal dependence of this region of the world on the international markets is alone sufficient to reveal the fragility of this space as in the case of the inflationary episode of strategic products (the imports of wheat in North Africa and in the Middle East represent a third of world imports). The food security issue has been part of the major concerns of the international community since the crisis of 2008. Apart from the summit organized in 2009 by FAO in Rome, the G8 and the G20 also placed this question at the centre of the international agenda. In 2011, the struggle against excessive price volatility was at the forefront of their discussions. Conscious that this situation was a bearer of turbulence for the Mediterranean countries, CIHEAM, in its activities, in training, research and cooperation worked on food security. In its 2008 Mediterranean report it had already dedicated a prospective analysis on the future of agriculture and food in the Mediterranean leading to a whole series of studies and programmes by the Institutes. This report contributed to recall that the Mediterranean region is, and will remain, a vulnerable zone of the world in the context of food security.

Simultaneously, the beginning of the 21st century was characterized by the influential rise of environmental concerns. If ecological questions were born in the 1970s, it was in 1992, at the Earth Summit in Rio, that the sustainable development concept became popular. The acceleration of climatic change, the fears of water shortages or landowning constraints, the explosion of energy requirements and of the consequent emissions of greenhouse gases, contributed to position the environment as an important topic of international politics. Once more, Mediterranean space embodied the whole difficulty of envisaging development more sustainable, an immense challenge for this region, which has always had to deal with its geographical and climatic realities and constraints. To produce more and to produce better can be considered as one of the oldest stories of the Mediterranean basin. Production difficulties have increased year after year, with the management of natural resources proving to be more and more of a priority.

It is for this reason that the theme of the adaptation to climatic change was at the centre of the discussion of the 8th Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture of CIHEAM organized in March 2010 in Istanbul to the invitation from Turkish authorities. The same preoccupation exists for marine resources since the durability of the piscatorial and aqua-cultural sectors is notably threatened by the pollution of Mediterranean waters.



CIHEAM has dedicated itself for a long time to different actions to the problem concerning the environment and sustainable development. To help Lebanon to better understand its marine environment, the MAI of Bari assisted the country to benefit from a scientific boat offered by the Italian State to the Lebanese National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS). Concerning fishing, the Institute of Zaragoza is reputed for its expertise therein as well as, more extensively, in water management. Taking advantage of the World Expo on water in Zaragoza in 2008, Spain, the hosting country for the 7th Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of CIHEAM, placed water and fishing concerns at the heart of the discussions. During the 2000s, Bari reinforced its expertise on the management of natural resources, the efficiency of irrigation systems and the preservation of biodiversity, while the Zaragoza Institute took part in many research programmes on the struggle against desertification and drought. For its part, the Institute of Chania, introduced numerous activities on the resilience of agricultural systems and sustainable agriculture.

In 2007, the world witnessed a dramatic socio-demographic change with the planet having more urban than rural inhabitants. Urbanization represents one of the most spectacular phenomena of the contemporary world. The Mediterranean countries are not peripheral to this development. On the contrary, the growth of cities and urban spread transformed their coastlines. However, in absolute values, the population in rural environments continued to grow to the South and to the East of the Mediterranean increasing from about 60 million inhabitants in 1980 to 90 million today. One Mediterranean inhabitant out of three is not a city-dweller. Rural zones are therefore again densely populated in spite of the exodus towards the cities or abroad, but at the same time remain poorly developed. Agriculture remains the principal activity and the agricultural sector is the first job supplier. Due to the internationalization and the globalization of trade, coastal cities have modernized themselves faster than the rural internal regions. After a period of economic convergence, the 2000 decade suffered new territorial inequalities.

Through the panoply of its activities, CIHEAM has always insisted on the fact that there would not be development in the Mediterranean without inclusive growth in all its territories. Therefore, it multiplied the projects in the direction of those rural internal regions which could thus participate not only to the improvement of agricultural production but also in the organization of production lines and of the economic vitality of the countryside. The MAI of Montpellier has for numerous years made rural development one of the pillars of its action. All this activity of CIHEAM in favour of

rural territories increases awareness that these spaces also deserve to be in the 21st century. Thus, the MAI of Chania developed tools of geo-information and satellite technologies to modernize agriculture in Mediterranean countries. Furthermore, apart from these considerations in rural areas, CIHEAM has also examined the role of women in agriculture in order to raise their status.

The food security imperative raises a certain number of qualitative questions. Whereas food scandals are regularly chronicled, as in Europe at the end of the 1990s with the mad cow disease, as in the south of the Mediterranean with the avian flu, we now require that food security and food quality be considered essential. The increasing requirements of consumers to be aware of the traceability and the certification of products have compelled States to put qualitative food security policies in place.

Public health becomes a matter of concern given the increase of illnesses due to obesity and to evolving consumption patterns. The worrying data on the rates of overweight and obesity in Mediterranean countries put into question the efficacy of the Mediterranean diet. Although praised on the international level, even accepted in 2010 as the intangible heritage of humanity by UNESCO, this diet, with its roots in the island of Crete, symbolizes the paradox of food practices. Nutrition and health are more and more correlated, reinforcing the existing continuum between the dish, the behaviour of the territories and the origin of products. CIHEAM regularly dedicates itself to these food concerns, to the quality of the products and furthermore to the recognition of the territories. The MAI of Bari made the theme of organic agriculture one of the main axes of its activity. One of the most dynamic networks instituted in 1999 by CIHEAM, then widened to federate 24 Mediterranean countries, is precisely on organic agriculture. The MAI of Zaragoza worked to promote Mediterranean products in commercial circuits through the training it provides on marketing and commercial strategy, notably on the leading product, that is olive oil. This Institute also covers animal health in its research and training activities. Drawing on the multi-dimensional analysis provided in the 2012 edition of *Mediterra* dedicated to the Mediterranean diet, the MAI of Bari and of Montpellier are constantly exploring the problem of sustainable food.

Euro-Mediterranean setback

Euro-Mediterranean cooperation has often disappointed and tainted optimism. The EU that had grown in 2004, then in 2007, included 27 member States and tried to



define the best operative way to assure its relationship with the Mediterranean basin, integrating it through the European neighbourhood policy that, since 2007, governed relations between the EU and its southern and oriental peripheries. Fearing the excess of bi-lateralisation in its relationships, France proposed in 2008 a new ambition for the Mediterranean. In spite of the on-going dynamics, the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) suffered an unfavourable regional setting. On the one hand the EU dedicated itself to manage the increasing financial and economic difficulties of its member states, in the background of the international financial crisis since the summer of 2008. On the other hand, the strengthening of cooperation between the countries of the Mediterranean periphery remained tributary to the instabilities of the Near East. The obstinate blockage to solve the Israeli-Arab conflict handicaps the south-to-south dialogue and more extensively all multilateral initiatives at the euro-Mediterranean level.

In spite of the procrastinations of UfM, CIHEAM, further to its 7th Ministerial Meeting in February 2008, put a high-level work group in place to propose some action for the agricultural pillar of UfM. A first meeting in Paris in April 2008, then a second in November in Tunis, identified four themes suggesting a concrete project on agriculture in this setting. It concerned sustainable development in a rural environment, the promotion of quality products and the development of geographical indications, of food security and of sanitary norms and finally of the coordination of agricultural research. These paths had been chosen to figure in the Declaration of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of UfM that should have been held in 2010. Unfortunately, Venice in 2003 remains to this day the only and unique Euro-Mediterranean meeting on agriculture. In agricultural exchanges, the flows remain certainly important between the EU and the countries of the Mediterranean periphery, but new extra-regional actors have also contributed to feed these markets that are not anymore the geo-economic heart of the planet but globalized fully on a commercial level. The liberalization of Euro-Mediterranean agricultural exchanges remains a complex path that develops exclusively at the regional level through bilateral dynamics and that can make the object of fascinating proceedings as in the case of the agreement between the EU and Morocco signed in 2012. If agriculture progresses slowly in Euro-Mediterranean exchanges, the problem of food insecurity becomes more vivid. Indeed, in a world context characterized by the price increase of staple commodities, the Mediterranean countries all witness important food inflation, a supplementary pressure on the daily conditions of life contributing to catalyse the discontent of a large segment of the population. The problem of a high cost-of-living became one of the major factors in the emergence of social unrest at the beginning of the 2010 decade. The volatility of prices and food security were therefore

naturally the themes chosen for the 9th Ministerial Meeting of CIHEAM held in Malta in September 2012.

Strengthen sustainable cooperation and broaden the scope of action

Considering the sheer size of the challenges in this Mediterranean region, CIHEAM pursues its multilateral cooperation mission while working in partnership with the present international and regional organizations of the region, but also with the national institutions in each of the member countries, first, and of course as in the past, with European institutions. Facing the evolution that agriculture underwent in the Mediterranean, CIHEAM used its institutional capacities to mobilize the training and research organisation of the Mediterranean. Together, they proposed Programmes of Regional Actions (PAR) initiated in 1998 and financed jointly by CIHEAM and the European Commission to create lasting regional ties of cooperation between administrations, experts and institutions. These programmes reinforced the cooperation ties with teaching and agricultural research institutions in Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. They encouraged the emergence of poles of excellence in the countries of the South and the East of the Mediterranean in the domains considered as priority areas such as between the MAI of Bari and Egypt on irrigation, between the MAI of Chania and Turkey on natural resources, between the MAI of Montpellier and Tunisia on agricultural policies and finally between the MAI of Zaragoza and Morocco on pluvial agriculture.

It is important to signal that these four PAR are the result of a long process of discussion between CIHEAM and the European Commission started in 1992 under the aegis of **Edgard Pisani**. CIHEAM continued to be active within the system of international bids of the EU in the setting of the 6th and 7th FPRTD. The Institutes participate in these research programmes in areas where they are competent, while being animators or partners of different consortia. Concerning research, the objectives pursued here by CIHEAM are explicit: to facilitate the scientific insertion of the teams of the South and the East of the Mediterranean within the international networks and to reinforce the capacities of its member countries.

This policy is pursued through intelligently linking research requirements leading to action and to the imperative of innovation. Relations between CIHEAM and the European Commission witnessed a new stage at the beginning of 2012. In the framework of



the renewed European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), of which the document of orientation had been communicated in May 2011, the European Commission decided to implement a programme to complement the agricultural and rural development of the Mediterranean countries (ENPARD). At first, interventions will be concentrated on four countries, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan. To implement this programme, the Directorates-General of Development and Cooperation (DG DEVCO) and of Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) of the European Commission designated in December 2011 the MAI of Montpellier as project operator for the period January 2012 to June 2014.

With the Council of Europe, relations remain privileged witnessing in June 2007, a very strong moment when Walter Schmied, President of the Agriculture Commission of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, presented a remarkable report on the Euro-Mediterranean agricultural and rural policies, that would be adopted unanimously and that would make the object of a constructive discussion in the hemicycle in Strasbourg, in the presence of many representatives of Mediterranean countries and international organizations. CIHEAM was there, all the more so since its Secretary-General, **Bertrand Hervieu**, had himself elaborated the report to the invitation of Walter Schmied, while mobilizing the expertise of his teams in Paris and in the Institutes. With OECD, the other political foster of CIHEAM, the Centre collaborates frequently.

With FAO, CIHEAM has maintained institutional relations since 1977. In January 2009, a new convention was signed to put into their proper frame the set of activities developed between the UN agency and the MAI. The two organizations intensified their partnership on traditional food, protection of forests, of modernization of irrigation techniques and the management of plant diseases and quarantine measures. They cooperate also in other sectors, notably peaches and aquaculture, animal production, phyto-genetic resources and mountain agriculture. Pursuing the objectives of the committee *Silva Mediterranea*, originated in 1911, FAO and CIHEAM undertook some research on the sustainable management of forests in the Mediterranean, with particular attention paid to the prevention of forest fires, reforestation and biodiversity. On this theme, in 2012, ERA-Net was put in place to coordinate forest research in the Mediterranean. Supported by the European Commission, the objective of FORESTERRA is to bring together scientific forest expertise between the Mediterranean countries. As for ARIM-Net in 2007, CIHEAM supported and contributed to the development of this project and is a fully-fledged member of the consortium. With UNESCO, CIHEAM has developed some projects on pastoral development in the mountain zones of the

Balkans. CIHEAM also maintained institutional relations with the other big UN agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Bank. These relations result in cooperation programmes on training or on research as well as on development projects.

At the beginning of the 21st century, CIHEAM does not fail to reinforce and to spread its network to regional agricultural organizations or those having technical vocation as the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the European Association of Zootechnics, International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV), the International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR), the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), the International Olive Oil Council (IOC), the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), the Mediterranean Institute of Certification (IMC), the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), the Euro-Mediterranean University, based in Slovenia (EMUNI), the Arab Centre for the Survey of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (OEPP), the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR) or the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Forum (BSEC).

Considering the strategic character of environmental questions, CIHEAM also developed an important relation with the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). In 2003, an agreement of cooperation was signed by **Salvino Busuttil**, then President of CIHEAM who had previously been coordinator of MAP in Athens. Effectively, CIHEAM cooperates with Plan Blue, one of the regional action centres of MAP. It resulted, among other actions, in the realization of a joint 2009 edition *Mediterra* on sustainable rural development. It is the same convergence of interests that drove CIHEAM and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to work together on questions of quality and the sanitary security of agricultural products. On this theme, an international seminar was organized in Parma in June 2007, where the head office of EFSA is located. It was the first important event in which the newly elected Tunisian President of CIHEAM, **Abdelaziz Mougou**, participated. With the International Centre for Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), the institutional relations are long-lived and strong. In October 2008, to this effect, CIHEAM had participated in Damascus at the general meeting of the regional association of the agronomic research institutions of the Arab world. The Institutes often develop joint projects with ICARDA, this centre forming part of the international CGIAR set-up whose secretariat was transferred from Washington to Montpellier in 2011. The former managing director of ICARDA, the Egyptian **Adel El Beltagy** was elected President of the Governing Board of CIHEAM in April 2011.



CIHEAM maintains privileged relations with the national agencies of cooperation of the hosting countries of its Institutes, for example, thus, in Spain with AECID, in Italy with the Service of Cooperation of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs and with the AFD in France. This link with the national authorities duplicates with close relationships with the territorial collectivities where the CIHEAM Institutes are located. The Mediterranean policy of the Apulia region develops itself most often through dialogue with the Institute of Bari. The agronomic influence of the region Languedoc-Roussillon draws its international dimension also through the Mediterranean platform of the institute of Montpellier. The activities of the MAI of Chania reinforce the attraction of Crete. Finally the MAI of Zaragoza remains solidly anchored on its Aragonese lands without forgetting its first vocation that is: to be of service to the Mediterranean. At a time when territorial collectivities are playing a more and more important role in international relations, CIHEAM and its Institutes benefit from additional assets when they succeed in working concertedly with local and central authorities.

Over the last years, CIHEAM has more and more been associated to international scientific events and to big political fora. It proves the international recognition for the institution with regard to its ability in contributing to education, to professional training, to the improvement of knowledge, to the sharing of experiences and to field cooperation. Thus, symbolically it is possible to mention the presence of CIHEAM in the world fora on water, in 2006 in Mexico City, in 2009 in Istanbul or in 2012 in Marseille. It is also thanks to this international high visibility that CIHEAM is sometimes called to play a role in non-member countries where the needs for agricultural development and the stakes of food security are immense. Mobilized by the Italian government, the MAI of Bari was present in agricultural and rural projects in Iraq in the context of the reconstruction of the country, or in Syria. In this geographical spread, the four Institutes did not forget the Balkans and the countries of former Yugoslavia, thus maintaining the historic original ties between CIHEAM, Yugoslavia and the Mediterranean. After the tragic events that occurred in the Balkans in the beginning of the 1990s, the Institute of Bari animated a support project for agricultural popularization services to the States emerging from the break-up of Yugoslavia. The Institutes did not hesitate to widen their field of cooperation beyond the Mediterranean. Those of Bari and Montpellier carried out ambitious projects of cooperation with Ethiopia, a vast country suffering food insecurity.

At the beginning of the 2010 decade, the economic climate being what it is, CIHEAM's actions try to maximize the impact of training, research and cooperation programmes. This concern of efficiency is at the heart of the strategies proposed by



the Spanish Secretary-General **Francisco Mombiela** who took his functions in autumn 2009 and implemented by the directors of the four Institutes. To maintain good financial health, through rigorous and collective management by the member countries since the creation of CIHEAM, a project has been implemented since 2005 to reform the accounting system of CIHEAM and to adapt it to the new international IPSAS norms. At the eve of its fiftieth birthday, CIHEAM is therefore adapting to the new regional economic reality. It should reach its half-century of existence by also answering to new challenges emerging from the Arab revolts but also by the financial constraints of its member states.

Conclusion

2012 marks the 50th birthday of the creation of CIHEAM. A half-century old organization that appears very modern in its mission and in its work methods. A long and sometimes sinuous history that has crossed the last five decades without losing view of the ambition of stronger cooperation in the Mediterranean. Through regional and international events, CIHEAM has succeeded in linking the requirement of adaptation to the needs of evolution. The enlargement to the countries of the South and the East of the Mediterranean, since the 1980s, has been a daring bet. It was a precursor project even for its time. Strong owing to its 13 member states and its 5 geographical sites (Bari, Chania, Montpellier, Paris and Zaragoza), CIHEAM keeps and develops daily Mediterranean dialogue while associating all national and international experts that share this taste for collective action to its activities.

The unity of this will does not exclude the recognition of diversity. To make the Mediterranean exist, to accept the diversity of realities, to work on what brings together: these are the guidelines that were the foundation of the creation of CIHEAM and that still perpetuate today at the heart of its action. The training of human capital, the progress of science, the production of knowledge and the application of know-how on these Mediterranean lands, where agriculture remains paramount, constitute a combination of activities that mutually reinforce each other and that are placed at the service of multilateral cooperation.

As it celebrates its fiftieth birthday, the geopolitical relevance of CIHEAM is confirmed. Agricultural and food more than ever have become again central themes in the world strategic agenda. The problematic of sustainable development also marks the beginning of the 21st century. When one wonders about climate change, the availability of water and land-use, it is first and foremost of agriculture that one is speaking about. The oldest human activity remain seven more than ever actual. Simultaneously, the Mediterranean region is displayed as a major barometer of international relations. Constantly in effervescence throughout its history, this space has known for some months a series of decisive political events for its future. Recently, the Mediterranean of the North and the South, have entered into a phase of social, economic and institutional transitions that will transform it in depth. Added to the already critical complexity of regional challenges, the emergence of new aspirations and the increase of uncharted political dynamics lead necessarily to the implementation of a medium to long-term vision of Mediterranean cooperation.



Such a prospective development does not solely pass through identifying priority actions and solidarities to be implemented, to ensure the development of Mediterranean countries. The stakes are known. And agriculture, definitely, is part of the determining sectors for the future of the Mediterranean. Now, it is also necessary, to face, without fear, the challenges of the present to construct the best future that we are all wishing for. Closed sea and open land, the Mediterranean interface can only exist if it maintains itself for a long time imagined and concretized projects. It is the case of CIHEAM. Its founders, while planting this idea in the Europe of post-war years and while uniting the countries which so many factors opposed, are precisely winning their challenge because their vision clings to the essential and to the ideal. A mobilizing utopia carried forward in the wake of men and women convinced that this Mediterranean was not condemned to live in the past. This passion for the future feeds a form of optimism. Certainly a lot of it is needed in this Mediterranean region.

To contribute to the development of the Mediterranean and to participate in the construction of its future: that is the *raison d'être* of CIHEAM. It is not the report of fifty years of experiences. It is the main message disseminated at a time where the temptation to withdraw into oneself emerges, whereas this region of the world seeks courage, determination and audacity.

Annexes

- Ratification of the Member States of CIHEAM
- Presidents of the Governing Board of CIHEAM
- Secretaries-General of CIHEAM
- Presidents of the Scientific Advisory Committee
- Directors of the Mediterranean Agronomic Institutes (MAI)
- Note about the evolution of the budget of CIHEAM
- CIHEAM budget for 2012

Ratification by the Member States of CIHEAM's Founding Treaty

Countries	Ratification Date
Albania	22 January 1992
Algeria	6 June 1986
Egypt	12 May 1986
Spain	9 August 1963
France	3 February 1965
Greece	12 January 1965
Italy	9 September 1965
Lebanon	21 February 1994
Malta	29 March 1989
Morocco	31 October 1990
Portugal	10 January 1966 (protocol n°1) 9 April 1967 (protocol n°2)
Tunisia	29 May 1985
Turkey	9 May 1967
Yugoslavia	3 May 1967

Presidents of the Governing Board of CIHEAM

Ramón ESTERUELAS (Spain)	1962 – 1983
Carlo SCARASCIA-MUGNOZZA (Italy)	1983 – 1987
Albert SIMANTOV (Greece)	1987 – 1991
Edgard PISANI (France)	1991 – 1995
Jeronimo GODINHO-AVO (Portugal)	1995 – 1999
Salvino BUSUTTIL (Malta)	1999 – 2003
Mouïñ HAMZE (Lebanon)	2003 – 2007
Abdelaziz MOUGOU (Tunisia)	2007 – 2011
Adel EL-BELTAGY (Egypt)	2011 –

Secretaries-General of CIHEAM

Pierre BRAULT (France)	1965 – 1969
Raymond LIGNON (France)	1969 – 1982
Georges ESTIEVENART (France)	1983 – 1985
Raymond FEVRIER (France)	1985 – 1991
Mustapha LASRAM (Tunisia)	1991 – 1997
Enzo CHIOCCIOLI (Italy)	1997 – 2003
Bertrand HERVIEU (France)	2003 – 2009
Francisco MOMBIELA MURUZABAL (Spain)	2009 –

Presidents of the Scientific Advisory Committee

Jean BUSTARRET (France)	1972 – 1979
Raymond FEVRIER (France)	1979 – 1987
Mustapha LASRAM (Tunisia)	1987 – 1991
Jean BOYAZOGLU (Greece)	1991 – 1995
Larbi FIRDAWCY (Morocco)	1995 – 1997
Jean-Claude FLAMANT (France)	1997 – 1999
Mouïñ HAMZE (Lebanon)	1999 – 2001
Ignacio ROMAGOSA (Spain)	2001 – 2003
Mohamed NAWAR (Egypt)	2003 – 2005
Teodoro MIANO (Italy)	2006 – 2008
Masum BURAK (Turkey)	2008 – 2012

Directors of CIHEAM-MAI Bari

Pasquale DEL PRETE	November 1961 – December 1965
Luigi CAVAZZA	January 1966 – June 1967
Giorgio SPALAZZI	June 1967 – July 1969
Roberto GUICCIARDINI	Interim until January 1970
Nicola MATARRESE	January 1970 – July 1974
Roberto GUICCIADINI	November 1974 – July 1978
Giuseppe COLOMBO	October 1978 – November 1987
Cosimo LACIRIGNOLA	November 1988 –

Directors of CIHEAM-MAI Chania

Theodoros DIMOPOULOS	January 1983 – July 1987
Alkinoos NIKOLAIDIS	July 1987 – 31 May 2012
Giorgios BAOURAKIS	June 2012

Directors of CIHEAM-MAI Montpellier

Gabriel BUCHET	Director of the «Ecole Supérieure d'Agriculture», acting as Director of the MAI of Montpellier from 1962 to April 1966
Lucien ESCARD	April 1966 – December 1969
Raymond LIGNON	SG of CIHEAM, Interim Director 1970 – 1974
Louis MALASSIS	January 1974 – November 1978
Jean-Pierre FREMEAUX	December 1978 – August 1979
Jean MOLINIER	September 1979 – December 1985
Roland PEREZ	January 1986 – December 1996
Gérard GHERSI	January 1997 – December 2004
Vincent DOLLE	January 2005 –

Directors of CIHEAM-MAI Zaragoza

Jose Miguel BOLIVAR SALCEDO	July 1969 – April 1970
Adolfo PÉREZ SÁNCHEZ	(Acting) since April 1970
Juan Francisco GÁLVEZ MORROS	November 1970 – August 1971
Javier TÉLLEZ	January 1972 – January 1974
Manuel VIDAL HOSPITAL	February 1974 – March 1975
Miguel MUT CATALÁ	March 1975 – March 1988
Miguel VALLS ORTIZ	April 1988 – April 2003
Luis ESTERUELAS HERNÁNDEZ	May 2003 – April 2011
Ignacio ROMAGOSA CLARIANA	May 2011 –

Note about the evolution of the budget of CIHEAM

The budget of CIHEAM has evolved throughout its history, mostly depending on the implemented policies. Three major phases can be identified:

- 1962 – 1982

Establishment of CIHEAM and implementation of its training and cooperation mechanisms. The budget was set up to meet the needs of the General Secretariat, MAI Bari and MAI Montpellier. The various activities of MAI Zaragoza were managed by the INIA (*Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agrarias*). In constant euros, the average annual budget of CIHEAM reached 950 000 €.

- 1982 – 2002

Development of CIHEAM, fostered by regular cooperation with international organizations, such as the European Commission and FAO. Creation of MAI Chania and inclusion of MAI Zaragoza in the budget of CIHEAM. The resources allocated for the development of CIHEAM increased substantially. The average annual budget was increased up to 28 million € (in constant Euros).

- 2002 – 2012

Stabilization and optimization of CIHEAM financial resources. The budget for this period reached an average of 30 millions €.

CIHEAM budget for 2012 in euro

The budget of CIHEAM is divided into two components:

- An operating budget financed through compulsory contributions of the member states (17.66 million euros for 2012, 16.04 million of which were compulsory contributions).
- Cooperation activities financed through contracts or cooperation agreements with external entities/agencies (9.68 million euros for 2012).

Operation Budget	
General Secretariat	3 034 176
MAI Bari	6 128 898
MAI Chania	2 016 500
MAI Montpellier	3 218 738
MAI Zaragoza	3 265 386
TOTAL	17 663 698
Operation External Funding	
General Secretariat	0
MAI Bari	6 560 470
MAI Chania	669 000
MAI Montpellier	2 170 000
MAI Zaragoza	284 241
TOTAL	9 683 711
GLOBAL BUDGET	
General Secretariat	3 034 176
MAI Bari	12 689 368
MAI Chania	2 685 500
MAI Montpellier	5 388 738
MAI Zaragoza	3 549 627
TOTAL	27 347 409

