

**11th MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS OF
THE MEMBER STATES OF CIHEAM**

Tirana - 22 September 2016

**Welcome Address by H.E. HE. Prof. Dr. Essam Fayed ,
Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR),
Egypt**

**Excellences,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great honor for me to be among you today and I would like first to thank H.E. Edmond Panariti, Minister of Agriculture, Sustainable Development and of Water Administration in Albania for his warm hospitality and for hosting this important event. I would like also to welcome H.E. the president of CIHEAM, Ministers of Agriculture of the 13 Members States of CIHEAM, or their representatives, Ambassadors, Delegates, and all the participants gathered in this meeting. Your presence today is an important indicator of your commitment to CIHEAM.

The Mediterranean is a geographical interface where agricultural, rural and climate challenges are strongly connected and create increasing interdependence between Europe, Africa and the Middle-East placing agriculture, nutrition, rural areas and the environment at the core of the Development Agenda.

the Mediterranean has been a leading migratory space for a long time, that mobility dynamics shall be seen in a perspective of human development and inclusive growth, mainly in the rural areas where the improvement of the living conditions and adaptation to climate change are crucial and essential;

Agriculture and food security are closely related to reconciliation, peace and stability in the Mediterranean region, and must be considered as priority sectors for these countries and for the international cooperation thereby underlining the importance of youth and, in particular, of women's employment in the rural areas in order to prevent distress mobility.

Building on its 13 member states and its 5 geographical sites (Bari, Chania, Montpellier, Paris and Zaragoza), CIHEAM

maintains and develops constant Mediterranean dialogue while associating all national and international experts who share this task for collective action.

The level of interdependence between Mediterranean countries and Europe is increasingly growing and CIHEAM is a very relevant instrument for multilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture, nutrition, fisheries, forestry in rural areas acting as a platform for knowledge and best practices sharing (i), training, research and innovation (ii), implementation of national development strategies (iii) and of scientific and cultural diplomacy (iv);

And please let me express my deep appreciation and strong welcome of the implementation of CIHEAM Action Plan for the Mediterranean (CAPMED 2025) to strengthen an institutional complementary in the fields of agriculture, food security and inclusive development.

I also welcome the executive director's salary, which is proposed to be funded by the Italian Government.

Excellences, Ladies and gentlemen,

Through our cooperation and fruitful dialogue, we can support and enhance the noble role of CIHEAM and fulfil its Strategic Agenda 2025 and objectives.

Again, let me thank you all for supporting and participating in this important meeting and I wish us success in our future endeavours.

Thank you all very much.