



Sustainable Agriculture
and Rural Development
MOUNTAIN POLICY PROJECT



Activities in the Mediterranean Basin

CIHEAM (Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes)

Overall objective: To share agricultural knowledge and expertise, assist in maintaining a meaningful dialogue on major issues associated with agricultural development, promote new approaches in the fields of food safety and nutrition and sustainable development, create a common culture and a shared awareness of prevailing issues among 13 member countries in the Mediterranean region.

Enhancing human resources for sustainable development

The CIHEAM operates through four Mediterranean Agronomic Institutes (IAM), located in France, Greece, Italy and Spain. The four institutes promote training, research and cooperation initiatives to develop human and institutional capacities in the following thematic fields: food production and quality management; economics, management and policies for development; environmental management of natural resources; fisheries and aquaculture. IAM-Bari is the Italian operating facility which acts according to the following goals:

- ▲ Enhancing human resources as an all-important factor of sustainable development in Mediterranean agriculture;
- ▲ Deepening, widening and spreading scientific knowledge as a basic factor to improve production techniques;
- ▲ Disseminating the culture of international co-operation as a key factor in socio-economic development and peaceful coexistence of Mediterranean peoples.

Developing training and research for sustainable development in agriculture

IAM-Bari has been entrusted by CIHEAM with the mandate of promoting and implementing training and research activities in: land development and management of water resources and irrigated agriculture; integrated protection of Mediterranean fruit crops; Mediterranean organic agriculture; Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development.

The activities are implemented through effective cooperative networks involving educational and research institutes from the CIHEAM member and non-member countries.

Introducing a mountain perspective to the building of capacities for SARD

CIHEAM, as a Regional Focal Point of the SARD-M Project, facilitates communication, coordination and networking with other partners, while supporting the design and implementation of project activities in the Mediterranean Basin. Regional Focal Points advocate for SARD policies in mountain regions and work closely with relevant entities at the regional and national levels.

- ▲ Assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of mountain policies in the Mediterranean Basin;
- ▲ Facilitation of information sharing, communication, coordination and networking with other partners;
- ▲ Mobilisation of potential partners in the project;
- ▲ Fostering of public awareness with regards to the concrete application of SARD mountain policies.



Performing policy assessments in the Mediterranean Basin

The development of policies for sustainable development is an **iterative process** that allows for the national and local levels to act in a coordinated and participatory manner to develop coherent policies that balance the economic, social and environmental objectives of sustainable development. Given that SARD is a process that involves **multiple sectors strongly linking agriculture and rural development and stakeholders at all governance levels**, the assessments will pay attention to the opinions of the different components of society at different levels, i.e. national and decentralized levels of government, civil society, including the private sector, and also take into consideration the multi-sectoral nature of SARD.

Within this framework, CIHEAM is performing the following activities to assess the strengths and weaknesses of mountain policies, develop training packages and foster mechanisms to encourage dialogue among stakeholders. Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon, Macedonia, Morocco, Serbia and Montenegro, Syria and Tunisia are participating in this capacity-building project.

▲ Identification of the major frameworks for SARD development in mountain areas of nine Mediterranean countries

The activity aims to support Mediterranean countries in the identification of the major frameworks for the development of SARD in mountain areas. This entails the collection of information on Policies, Institutions and Processes (PIPs) concerning SARD and on the identification and characterisation of significant stories for SARD development in Mediterranean mountain areas. The activity is strongly linked to other ongoing and foreseen experiences strictly related to SARD, such as the Capacity Building Project for SARD Implementation in the Mediterranean Regions (SARD ImpleMed).

▲ Selection of significant stories for the development of case studies

Two significant stories in Lebanon and Morocco have been selected and are being surveyed.

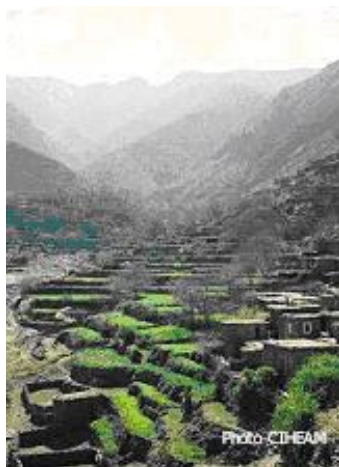
▲ Characterization of the most two significant stories

The social, economic, environmental and institutional aspects of the two significant stories are being surveyed to define the overall frameworks of case studies for SARD development that can potentially be implemented in the following years.

▲ Production of a CD-Rom presenting mountain policies in the Mediterranean region and the two selected experiences in order to disseminate results of the realised works.

These activities will be implemented with the support of the Plan Bleu.

Contact Information



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