



PORTUGAL

Nuno CANADA

President of the National Institute for Agricultural Research and Veterinary

Honorable Minister of Agriculture, Sustainable Development and Water Administration of Albania H. E. Mr. Edmond Panariti,

Honorable Ministers,

Honorable President of CIHEAM,

Honorable Secretary General of CIHEAM,

Ambassadors,

Member Country Delegates of CIHEAM,

Honorable Representatives of the International Organizations,

Honorable Representatives of the Albanian official entities,

Dear participants,

I would like to start by thanking His Excellency, Mr. Edmond Panariti, Minister of Agriculture, Sustainable Development and Water Administration of Albania, for the invitation to attend the 11th Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Member Countries of the CIHEAM addressed to His Excellency, the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development from Portugal, Mr. Luis Capoulas Santos, whom I have the honor of representing.

In spite of the strong willing to be present, and contrary of the planned, H.E. the Minister was not able to assist to this meeting. However, considering the importance that Portugal recognize to the Mediterranean issues and to CIHEAM, H.E. the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development of Portugal send a write message to the Ministers of Agriculture of the member States of CIHEAM:

“Portugal is a founder member of CIHEAM, giving a strong support to this organization since 1962.

Portugal is Atlantic by location, but Mediterranean by nature. In fact, Portuguese Agriculture is Mediterranean, Portuguese diet is Mediterranean, and we have a Mediterranean way of life.

Mediterranean is an interface where agriculture, rural areas, food and climate are strongly connected and create increasing interdependence between Mediterranean countries.

CIHEAM is an unique platform that links all that Mediterranean countries promoting the multilateral cooperation, applied research and innovation as well as education and knowledge transfer.

Since its creation, CIHEAM has been increasing its competencies in those areas, being today one of the most internationally recognized Centers in the agricultural field.

This reputation is based on the quality of its advanced specialized training, research and innovation, as well as promotion of cooperation in agriculture, food, and sustainable rural development in the Mediterranean area.

It is important to strengthen the activities of the CIHEAM in Portugal, which will contribute to disseminate knowledge, promote cooperation among member countries through more projects in training, research, development and innovation.

The possibility of having an Affiliated Center in Portugal could be an important step in that sense.

Our country has been recognized for the food safety, quality and diversity of its products being the agri-food sector a fundamental pillar of the economy.

Portugal as the objective to achieve the value food self-sufficiency in the next 5 years. To accomplish this goal, we are defining a strategy through an increase in production, investment, training, research and knowledge exchange in the agrifood sector.

The implementation of more projects between the Member Countries of CIHEAM, in a multilateral cooperation approach, promoting technology exchange, the strengthening of research networks, as well the increasing of commercial exchanges in the agri-food sector, should be promoted.”

Thank you very much for your attention.