



Mediterra 2009

Rethinking rural development In the Mediterranean

Annual Report of CIHEAM, in partnership with Plan Bleu

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Press Kit

PRESS INFORMATION

CIHEAM and Plan Bleu announce the publication of *Mediterra 2009*
« **Rethinking rural development in the Mediterranean** »

Paris, Sophia-Antipolis, April, 8 2009

Mediterra 2009, named « Rethinking rural development in the Mediterranean » is the fruit of cooperation between the Plan Bleu and the CIHEAM. This report analyses agricultural and rural implementations of the Mediterranean Strategy of Sustainable Development (MSSD) and takes a fresh look at the policies implemented in rural areas. Its purpose is to provide all actors, professionals and researchers in the Euro-Mediterranean world with essential assessment criteria and strategic indicators for agricultural and rural development. Mediterra 2009 is published in French and in English by the Presses de Sciences-Po (Paris) and will be shortly traduced and available in Spanish, Arabic and Italian.

Drawing on four regional studies and ten national studies conducted in Albany, Algeria, Egypt, Spain, France, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey, *Mediterra 2009* appeals to review the policies of agricultural and rural development in the Mediterranean and asks the question of their position in the economies of all the riparian states.

Climate change, responsible water resource management, land dynamics, economic diversification – such are the challenges for the sustainability and competitiveness of Mediterranean farming systems. This report is carrying a message as simple as essential: in the Mediterranean, there is no rural development without dynamic agriculture as there is no agricultural development without vitality of rural areas.

In this context, *Mediterra 2009* pleads for a reinforcement of the regional cooperation in terms of agriculture and rural development in suggesting that it be part of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) adopted by riparian states in 2005.

About CIHEAM

Founded in 1962, the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) is an intergovernmental organisation comprising thirteen member countries from the Mediterranean Basin (Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Spain, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Tunisia and Turkey).

CIHEAM is made up of a General Secretariat based in Paris and four Mediterranean Agronomic Institutes (MAI) located in Bari (Italy), Chania (Greece), Montpellier (France) and Zaragoza (Spain).

In pursuing its three central missions (education, research and cooperation) CIHEAM has come to be recognised as an authority in its fields of activity: Mediterranean agriculture, food and sustainable rural development.

www.ciheam.org

About the Blue Plan

The Blue Plan, a think-tank and Mediterranean Observatory for the Environment and Sustainable Development, is one of the Regional Activity Centres for the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP). It was set up and is funded and led by the riparian states and the European Community.

Its aim as defined by the inter-governmental conference held in Split in 1977, is to develop regional cooperation in order to set up and make available a fund of knowledge intended to facilitate the implementation of sustained environmentally- friendly development. The Blue Plan produces prospective analyses of the environment and development, acts as a Mediterranean observatory for sustainable development, and is the main support centre for the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD).

www.planbleu.org

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