The Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (IAMZ) is one of the four Institutes of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), together with Bari in Italy, Montpellier in France and Chania in Greece. CIHEAM is an intergovernmental organisation created over 50 years ago under the auspices of the Council of Europe and the OECD whose mission is to develop cooperation between the countries of the Mediterranean through implementing a comprehensive training and education programme and promoting strategic research in the areas of agro-food, fisheries and natural resources. The Centre’s Governing Board is composed of a representative of each member country, the OECD and the Council of Europe, as well as other international organisations.

CIHEAM Member States and its Institutes

The IAMZ in Zaragoza was founded in 1969, and is a centre of excellence offering high-quality training and education which is complemented by a strong international research and project management programme. IAMZ focuses its activities on several core areas:

1. Education and Training

   Many of our activities are carried out in cooperation with international organisations (OECD, FAO, UN, WTO, EFSA, EC, ICARDA, EEAP, etc.). The Institute is situated on the Campus of Aula Dei, one of the largest and most prestigious agricultural science complexes in Spain. Principal areas of activity:

   1. **Education and Training**

      The IAMZ is a point of reference in agro-food training and specialisation in the Mediterranean. The IAMZ offers (i) 8 Master programmes in partnership with other universities aimed mainly at recent graduates and organised in two year cycles, offering 4 Master programmes at any one time as indicated below:

      **2017-2019 academic period:** Animal nutrition (University of Zaragoza and FEDNA); Agro-food marketing; Olive growing and oil technology (University of Córdoba); and Sustainable fisheries management (University of Alicante).

      **2018-2020 academic period:** Plant breeding (University of Lleida); Integrated planning for rural development and environmental management (University of Lleida); Aquaculture (University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria); Animal breeding and reproduction biotechnology (Universities of Barcelona and Valencia).

   (ii) Approximately 10 advanced courses and seminars of 3-5 days duration are organised each year. Courses are targeted at professionals wishing to update knowledge on any given topic and over 400 subject areas have been covered over the last 30 years in agronomy, agricultural, rural development and related areas. Examples include precision agriculture, agricultural...
insurance, water and energy nexus, emerging diseases in Mediterranean fruit and vegetables, mycotoxins in cereal food/feed chains, greenhouse gas mitigation in agriculture, managing forest fires, bee disease diagnosis and many many more.

IAMZ’s training activities have a wide international repercussion, with over 400 participants per year in its Masters and advanced courses programmes and 250 leading guest lecturers from approximately 80 countries. The IAMZ plays a key capacity building role in supporting development across the Mediterranean through facilitating the participation of some of the top students and professionals from Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries, providing them with bursaries to participate in IAMZ MSc programmes and short courses.

2. International Research Programmes

IAMZ presently participates in and coordinates four cooperative research programmes financed under H2020 and FP7 in the agro-food and rural development areas and has participated in over 15 similar programmes over the last 20 years.

MedAID aims to increase the overall competitiveness and sustainability of the Mediterranean marine aquaculture sector. IAMZ plays a key role as coordinator of this 7 million Euro project involving over 30 partners and is responsible for dissemination and training packages.

SIMRA seeks to advance understanding of social innovation and innovative governance in agriculture, forestry and rural development, and how to boost them, particularly in marginalised rural areas across Europe. Involving over 20 partners, IAMZ is responsible for dissemination, communication and training.

iSAGE Innovation for Sustainable Sheep and Goat Production in Europe aims to make the European Sheep and Goat sectors more sustainable, competitive and resilient. With the participation of over 30 partners, IAMZ’s role is to ensure the active engagement of the sector in the project and carry out dissemination and training.

LEGATO LEGumes for the Agriculture of TOMorrow has been set up to promote the culture of grain legumes and IAMZ is responsible for stakeholder engagement and dissemination and communication of the results.

Participation in previous EU Research programmes has also covered the areas of forestry, drought management in Africa, fisheries management and water management.

3. Mediterranean Research Networks

The IAMZ also promotes and coordinates cooperative research networks often jointly with the FAO to facilitate cooperation between CIHEAM member countries. The networks aim to identify common challenges affecting Mediterranean agriculture and share good practices and solutions.

Current IAMZ networks cover: Mediterranean food safety; sheep and goats; pasture and forage crops; nuts; and drought management. Previous networks have included fruit production; cereals and legumes; fisheries; aquaculture and rabbit production.