The Institution

Founded in 1969, CIHEAM Zaragoza 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. This intergovernmental organization, with headquarters in Paris, was created over 50 years ago under the auspices of the Council of Europe and the OECD.

CIHEAM Zaragoza’s mission is to strengthen the spirit of international cooperation, through postgraduate training and complementary technical education and research activities in the areas of agriculture, food, fisheries and natural resources of the countries of the Mediterranean region, and to promote political and institutional dialogue.

CIHEAM has 13 member countries (Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey). The Governing Board is composed of a representative of each member country, a representative of the OECD and of the Council of Europe, as well as observers from other international organizations such as the FAO, the European Commission and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development. CIHEAM has a Scientific Advisory Committee, the members of which are leading scientific figures from higher education or research centres in Mediterranean countries.

CIHEAM Zaragoza is a centre of excellence, conducting training activities, cooperative research projects and technical and cultural programmes. Its location on the Campus of Aula Dei, one of the most prestigious campuses in the field of agrifood research, is an ideal setting to enhance collaboration and create synergies with regional and national institutions, strengthened further through productive relations with the business community.

Training Activities

CIHEAM Zaragoza is an international point of reference, having trained over 15,000 professionals in the Mediterranean agrifood sector over the last 50 years. Its success transcends the shores of the Mediterranean, reaching professionals from Latin America, USA, Asia and other regions worldwide. Alumni go on to hold posts of responsibility in public and private institutions in related sectors.

The training offer includes:

(i) 8 Master of Science programmes organized in two-year cycles: “Animal Nutrition” (with the University of Zaragoza and FEDNA), “Agro-food Marketing”, “Plant Genetics, Genomics and Breeding”, “Sustainable Water Management and Governance in Natural and Agricultural Environments”, “Olive Growing and Oil Technology” (with the University of Cordoba, Regional Govt. of Andalusia, IFAPA, IOC, CSIC and FPCO), “Sustainable Fisheries Management” (with the University of Alicante), “Marine Aquaculture” (with the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria), and “Animal Breeding and Reproduction Biotechnology” (with the Autonomous University of Barcelona and the Polytechnical University of Valencia, IVIA and INIA).

(ii) Advanced courses for professionals of 1 week in duration have a fundamentally applied approach aimed at professionals wishing to update knowledge and explore in depth specific techniques or methodologies. They provide an international forum for the exchange of experiences with guest experts and other professionals participating in the course. In the last 30 years, CIHEAM Zaragoza has organized more than 350 advanced courses in the five thematic areas of plant breeding, health and production; animal production and welfare; agrifood systems and marketing; fisheries and aquaculture; environment and natural resources.
The summer programme “Spanish Food Culture: Mediterranean Diet and the Agrifood Industry”, aimed at undergraduates, recent graduates or young professionals from all over the world wishing to work or study in areas related to the agrifood sector, food science, catering, gastronomy, international marketing, etc. or interested in learning more about the food industry, gastronomy and culture of Spain.

CIHEAM Zaragoza’s training activities have a wide international repercussion and each year about 400 participants attend the Masters programmes advanced courses and summer programme, delivered by 250 prestigious lecturers from more than 80 countries. CIHEAM Zaragoza plays an important role of capacity-building, providing support for the development of the region by training some of the best students and professionals in the countries of the South and East of the Mediterranean.

**International Research Programmes**

In the last 15 years, CIHEAM Zaragoza has participated in over 20 research projects in European framework programmes such as FP6, FP7, H2020 and PRIMA, currently coordinating the following:

- MedAID (H2020: 2017-2021) aims to increase the overall competitiveness and sustainability of the Mediterranean marine aquaculture sector, focusing on the two main species produced; seabass and seabream. CIHEAM Zaragoza is the general coordinator of this 7 million-euro project.

- SmartCulTour (H2020: 2020-2023) seeks to propose and validate community-driven, innovative actions focused on cultural tourism as a means to support the sustainable development of all European regions with tangible and intangible cultural wealth, especially in rural areas and thus contribute to their resilience and inclusivity.

- NewTechAqua (H2020: 2020-2023) aims to extend and diversify European aquaculture production of finfish, molluscs and microalgae through the development and validation of resilient, sustainable and technologically-advanced applications.

- IPMWORKS (H2020: 2020-2024) has been set up to create a pan European network of farmers capable of promoting integrated pest-control strategies through the exchange of knowledge and learning.

- CAMA (PRIMA: 2020-2023) is designed to identify and overcome the main obstacles and enable the adoption of conservation agriculture by small-scale farmers in Mediterranean countries through a participatory research approach based on field experiments and pilot case studies under different conditions and through the development of an extensive training and outreach programme.

CIHEAM Zaragoza also promotes and coordinates cooperative research networks, some in collaboration with FAO, in order to enhance collaboration between CIHEAM member countries. The purpose of the networks is to identify common challenges in Mediterranean agriculture and share good practices and appropriate solutions. The networks constitute a fundamental framework for the exchange of research experiences and knowledge transfer and facilitate relations between groups in different countries working on common issues. The networks are made up of groups of researchers involved in wide areas of interest, with a stable coordination structure and a consolidated participation of a rich variety of professional profiles, institutions and countries.

CIHEAM Zaragoza is currently participating in networks focusing on the following issues: food safety in the Mediterranean; the sheep and goat sector; pastures and forage crops; nuts, and drought management. Previous networks have concentrated on fruit tree production, cereals and legumes, fisheries, aquaculture and rabbit production.

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