

Analyses

Agricultural policy in the Mediterranean: taking a new direction

Bertrand Hervieu

Secretary General of CIHEAM

Agricultural development continues to be one of the chief concerns of the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries (SEMC). Increasing production, improving food security and opening up rural areas have been priorities for national authorities for some years now. The recent reinstatement of agriculture at the heart of the international strategic agenda, given the many uncertainties now looming, serves to emphasise the importance of developing Mediterranean agricultures. There is a pressing need for action, albeit in a context marked by many constraints.

The first constraint is ecological, water stress and land scarcity being very much in evidence in the Mediterranean region. There is likely to be an increase in climate disorder, which among other things will exacerbate a somewhat overlooked phenomenon: the accentuation and spread of epizootic diseases.

Another one is economic: in a tight budgetary context it is necessary to find resources for agricultural research while at the same time investing in agricultural development and modernisation of rural areas.

There is also a social constraint: we need to remember that the Mediterranean countryside is not becoming depopulated and that we have never recorded as many agricultural workers in the SEM countries as at present. Their agricultural sectors still employ one worker in three; such is their socio-economic importance.

Lastly, there is the problem of food supply: for several years now it has been necessary to resort to imports to satisfy growing domestic demand in these countries. This brings us to the question of food security as a whole, the need both to ensure supplies and to make products accessible.

In the light of this rapid overview we are able to understand why so many questions are being asked about some of the choices that have been made regarding agricultural development in the Mediterranean countries. The countries and their agricultural systems are confronted with a whole range of challenges: managing the opening up of trade, organising the different sectors, achieving food sovereignty, conserving natural resources, ensuring food safety, and adapting to new modes of consumption.

Contrasting developments for different types of farm

Today the wide range of Mediterranean agricultures can be grouped into three types, each of which has distinct features and serves a specific purpose. They are: family agricultures, which are undergoing radical change, poor agricultures, which could be described as subsistence agricultures, and corporate agricultures.

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CIHEAM

Founded in 1962, CIHEAM is an intergovernmental organisation comprising thirteen member countries from the Mediterranean Basin.

CIHEAM is made up of a General Secretariat (Paris) and four Mediterranean Agronomic Institutes (Bari, Chania, Montpellier and Zaragoza).

In pursuing its three central missions (education, research and cooperation) CIHEAM has established itself as a reference in its fields of activity: Mediterranean agriculture, food and rural development.

At present, Mr Abdelaziz Mougou is CIHEAM's President and Mr Bertrand Hervieu is its Secretary General.

- Family agricultures are found throughout the Mediterranean rim. They spring from the peasant agricultures of the kind practised in Egypt, Turkey and, to a greater extent, Italy and France. The typical farm depends almost exclusively on family members for manpower, consumes a certain amount of its output and sells the bulk of it on the market. The development of family agricultures involves intensification, organisation of networks or expansion, depending on the country and output.
- They are quite distinct from poor or subsistence agricultures, which involve family groups or networks working on microfarms with neither modern production tools nor, owing to ignorance of regulations and standards, access to marketing circuits. This subsistence or interim agriculture mainly provides for home consumption and enables the populations dependent on it to avoid unemployment (in the strict sense) though not poverty.
- Corporate agricultures, sometimes built on the remains of colonial agricultures but most often on new land, have been gaining ground as a result of massive capital investment. They use high-level technology and paid manpower and produce for the export market.

It is necessary to examine public agricultural policy at national and regional level in light of the tripartite nature of Mediterranean agricultures. Everybody agrees that no one way of dealing with land-ownership, commercial, social, environmental or banking questions would fit all of these agricultures. And it is generally understood that focussing on one type would amount to blocking trade, social progress or job creation, depending on the particular case.

The diversity of agricultures in the Mediterranean therefore requires us to adopt a range of different development paths and enable them to coexist until such time as their own transformation has reshaped the countryside as we know it today.

It is not a question of preserving the status quo but rather of giving each of these agricultures the appropriate means of developing and transforming themselves. It is precisely for that reason that the process of modernisation and agricultural liberalisation in the SEM countries needs to be regulated and differentiated according to produce, channels and farm size.

Priority action for achieving greater Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in agriculture

While the Barcelona process relegated the agricultural question to the margins of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, addressing it purely in terms of trade and trade liberalisation, there are signs of progress under the new Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) initiative. The latter demands that cooperative ventures in the region focus on solidarity at a practical level and on projects calling for regional partnerships.

The food issue was underscored at the founding summit of the UfM on 13 July 2008. The UfM's ministers of foreign affairs, meeting in Marseilles in November 2008, devoted a specific paragraph to this matter in their summary of decisions. It laid down four major themes that needed to be addressed if progress was to be made in Euro-Mediterranean agricultural cooperation: sustainable development of rural areas, promotion of quality products and geographical indicators, raising of sanitary and phytosanitary standards and coordination of agricultural research and education.

These themes were the ones identified and defined at two meetings organised in 2008, where CIHEAM supplied the technical Secretariat, and at a meeting of the high level working group comprising representatives of the thirteen CIHEAM member countries, the European Commission and the two countries that were due to assume the presidency of the European Union. These themes relating to cooperation are expected to be further explored and defined at a ministerial meeting of the UfM on agriculture and food security, which might be held in the coming months.

New Secretary General of CIHEAM

At the 121st meeting of CIHEAM's Governing Board in Paris on 7 May 2009, the organisation's thirteen member countries unanimously elected Mr Francisco Mombiela Muruzábal (Spain) to the post of Secretary General of CIHEAM. He will commence his four-year term of office on 1st October 2009.

He succeeds Mr Bertrand Hervieu (France), who held the post from October 2003 until September 2009.

Until now Mr Francisco Mombiela Muruzábal has been Director General of Food Industries and Markets at the Spanish Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs (MARM).

In considering the future of agricultural cooperation on the Euro-Mediterranean level, we need to clarify two critical points.

As regards agricultural research, it must be acknowledged that the time has come to work towards greater pooling of knowledge and skills at regional level. Such is the intent of the ERA-Net, launched in 2008, which seeks to coordinate Mediterranean agricultural research (the ARIMNet programme) by optimising existing resources and employing a common language. In my opinion the Mediterranean scientific zone will have to be established as soon as possible if we are to devise such a common language. The southern countries do not merely need technology transfers, they also need to produce knowledge, innovation and technology of their own. Development is not simply the fruit of such transfers, it is a process that requires the developing society to form its own education systems and knowledge base, which not only provide the driving force behind development but also confer legitimacy on the country in the public mind.

As to the agricultural policies that need to be implemented, it is necessary to adopt a two part approach. The first part consists in territorialising agricultural development, ie taking steps to implement established national plans, which are sometimes difficult to put into practical effect owing to lack of government intermediaries in the field. We need to encourage the emergence of local players, improve governance in rural areas and empower those most suited to guide development of their local territories along the best possible lines. The second part of this approach requires us to go beyond the national context at times, in order to attain the critical regional scale that will enable us to confront the very complex challenges now facing Mediterranean agricultures. This is how we should envisage cooperation over agriculture and food at sub-regional level (the Maghreb comes to mind), regional level (the Mediterranean?) or geopolitical level (let's say the Euro-Mediterranean Region).

New Perspectives for the Agricultural Sector in Turkey

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Due to being almost the only income providing sector in rural areas, agricultural sector plays a crucial role in country's economic and sociological structure. It is a difficult task to describe agricultural activities in Turkey and the structure behind the activities. In one part of the country while there is highly competitive, capital-intensive and export-oriented production, in other parts there is a highly subsidized and protected structure. Hence, there is still government intervention and support in agricultural markets, which is mostly due to sector's importance in rural life. Another noteworthy characteristic is that in general, the average farm size does not exceed six hectares which shows there is still considerable amount of subsidiary and semi-subsidiary agricultural production (Aerni, 2007).

While the production scale and government intervention arise as problems specific to the sector, there are other factors which are specific to rural areas in Turkey and that deepens the problems of agricultural sector. The unfair distribution of owned land, the fragmented structure of agricultural land, low education level and high rates of population growth are the most important among all. In addition, migration triggered by the rural-urban income gap, high rates of rural poverty and by regional terrorist activities evolves as another problem specific to Turkey.

Governments' interest in agricultural sector and their way to deal with the sector specific problems has shown considerable and radical changes during the last century (Sahinoz, 1998). Just after the establishment of the republican system and for long years governments' first priority was to produce enough food for the poor and for the whole country. By 1950's mechanization in agricultural sector became important and new lands were open for agricultural production. In 1960s intensive production together with widespread use of chemicals was initiated.

MAI Zaragoza

MAI Zaragoza, in partnership with the FAO and the University of Leon, will be organising the 13th seminar of the FAO/CIHEAM Sub-Network on sheep and goat nutrition from 14 to 16 October 2009 in León (Spain).

This seminar will bring together about 150 specialists in small ruminant nutrition from Mediterranean and non-Mediterranean countries.

The scientific sessions will address topical subjects, such as management of pastoral landscapes, rumen ecology and its implications for the environment, nutritional strategies and climate change, nutrition-parasite interaction, and mineral nutrition and the relationship between nutrition and product quality.

<http://www.iamz.cih-eam.org/leon2009>

In the period after 1980 all the subsidy and support measures were reduced gradually by the introduction of liberalization policies and less interventionist policies were adopted. In 1990's Turkish economy has experienced severe economic crises and in this period agricultural policies were mostly shaped by international organizations and agreements. Agreements with the World Bank, the IMF Stand-By agreements and integration process with the European Union have shaped the policy framework to the agricultural sector. Finally in the 2000's concepts such as environmental sensitivity, climate change, efficiency in water use, sustainability, biotechnology and bio-energy have begun to occupy considerable place in the agenda. At this point, we are faced with an agricultural sector which has some serious problems sourced by the structure of the sector and by the factors specific to rural areas. These problems are usually associated with production factors however weakness of the institutional structure regarding the process starting from the first stage of production to the consumption of final goods should be taken into account as well.

Problems of Turkish agricultural sector and their consequences - a summary

Problems with regard to production factors: high rate of unqualified underemployment (due to low education level and less off-farm employment opportunities); lack of capital and financial sources; regional variation in yield; small scale and fragmented production; incomplete chemicals market and misuse of chemicals; lack of irrigation infrastructure. Problems with regard to institutional structure: insufficiencies in farm registration system; inefficiencies in professional training, organized behavior and cooperation; regional lack of marketing facilities and inefficiencies in accessing markets; lack of product quality standards and required quality improvement; misused property rights; disorganized structure in state organizations; lack of agricultural finance, research, training and extension services; limited creation and dissemination of scientific information.

The so called inadequacies are reflected directly on high levels of underemployment, low and variable productivity, soil erosion, salinity, water pollution and poverty. Indirect outcomes arise due to high numbers of poor people who act more with economic motives rather than environmental concerns and who are quite ignorant with regard to use of resources such as water, land and environment. Another indirect impact develops as a result of the small and fragmented area which prevents effective improvement in agricultural land. Consequently, the necessity to have a "structural change" regarding the agricultural sector and rural areas is commonly accepted by all the related agents.

What Type of "Structural Change" Strategy?

The "structural change" strategy regarding the agricultural sector that will be followed in the new decade in Turkey would be more healthy and efficient if the two questions below are discussed with their all dimensions by policy makers in the country. Put in other way, an economically and environmentally sustainable agriculture in Turkey can only be achieved if the correct messages and/or lessons can be derived from the two questions below. It may be observed that since the beginning of 2000's the main concern of policy makers was to compensate for the adjustment cost of liberalization to the agricultural sector and to rural population via implementation of social policies (Aerni, 2007). Social policies can be effective in contributing to the individual's welfare however these policies cannot create any change in the structure of rural economy including agricultural sector and cannot create any alternative job opportunities for underemployed people of agricultural sector. Therefore, the first question to be discussed is "does Turkey need social policies to recover from the liberalization or should there be more innovation and technology oriented policies?" to be implemented in the next decade.

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Meeting of CIHEAM officials

Since 2005 CIHEAM has been arranging two-yearly meetings between certain members of its staff in order to encourage dialogue between lecturers-researchers at the MAIs and members of the General Secretariat.

The third meeting of this kind was held from 19 to 21 September at MAI Montpellier. It was attended by about 50 CIHEAM officials, who discussed the main activities in progress as well as matters relating to the establishment of doctoral platforms and the development of an agricultural dimension to the Union for the Mediterranean.

Since the 1990's agricultural policies in Turkey are mostly determined by macroeconomic concerns and shaped by international organizations and/or agreements. Turkey, who is experiencing various changes and adjustments for a long time to become a candidate for joining the EU, seems to be adopting the CAP sooner or later. However, Turkey is still in the developing country category in the WTO negotiations. Hence for Turkey, adoption of CAP while trying to benefit from developing country exemptions in the WTO becomes a challenge. Therefore, the second question to be discussed is "are the policy decisions of next decade going to be given as they were since the 1990's or should Turkey realize her correct potential regarding the sector and predict future developments and accordingly determine her policy framework and alternatives independently?"

In our view, if the aim is achieving economic and environmental sustainability in agricultural activities and if Turkey wants to experience a "structural change" regarding agricultural sector and rural life, then she should definitely implement innovation and technology oriented policies, obviously with the rules of World Trade Organization but independent from foreign interventions and domestic macroeconomic concerns. The innovative and technology oriented policies should give the priority to investment in human capital and to stimulate entrepreneurship in rural areas. Access to education should be improved and institutional framework should be developed to facilitate investment. In this way number of unqualified labour could be reduced and with the increase in accessibility of business related information, capital and finance together with investment in off-farm activities underemployed labour of agricultural sector will find opportunity to work in off-farm activities created by new investment.

Investment in agricultural industries should be realized in the areas where the agricultural activities take place. Lower numbers of underemployed and unqualified labour, with the developing off-farm employment opportunities would also stimulate a better working labour market. It is only investment in human capital and in research that would make advanced agricultural technologies reachable and accessible. Put in other way, the traditional structure in agriculture could leave its place to information economics only with the implementation of innovative policies. To determine the agricultural potential correctly and to use it efficiently in Turkey, priority should be given to improvement of irrigation infrastructure and land defragmentation. Investment in irrigation should be increased while land based agricultural services should be extended at the same time to prevent erosion and salinity (Adaman and Özertan, 2007). While defragmentation of agricultural lands requires a new institutional structure and a "land reform", to protect biological richness, to protect soil by efficient use of chemicals and to increase yields without creating any damage to resources again can only be possible by extended land based agricultural services. In the long term, to achieve economic and environmental sustainability in agriculture, farmers should be led towards activities that would be more environment and resource considerate which could only occur through education.

Turkey should give weight to rural development policies as well. This would be in accordance with the expected policy framework of the EU and would also be in line with the developments in WTO agreements. While rural policies are covered under green-box of the WTO that are not subject to reduction, a larger share of the budget is planned to be invested in rural development to strengthen rural policy in the EU (Çakmak and Akder, 2005). As the final word, achieving sustainable agriculture necessitates reforms and/or structural changes that would make agricultural production and environmental resources work for each other not against. Obviously, reaching sustainable agriculture is a long term issue rather than short, however the steps towards it should be taken immediately.

MAI Bari

Since 2006 MAI Bari has been participating in the research programme SCENES, which was launched by the European Commission under the 6th FPRTD. The aim of this project is to develop and analyse a set of comprehensive scenarios for Europe's fresh water futures up to 2025.

The studies cover the whole of Europe, including the Caucasus and the Urals, together with the southern and eastern Mediterranean countries. The scenarios identified in the SCENES programme will provide a frame of reference for long-term strategic planning of European water resource development, alert policy makers to emerging problems, and afford river basin administrators a means of coping with climate uncertainty. They will include quantitative as well as qualitative analyses.

This project, which will end in 2010, is coordinated by the Finnish Environment Institute and the University of Kassel (Germany). It involves 24 scientific institutions from 16 countries in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The annual meeting of SCENES partners will be organised by MAI Bari on its own premises from 5 to 8 October and will review progress, achievements and possible future action.

www.iamb.it

The passage towards the recent agricultural policy in Egypt

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Egypt is one of the most populous countries among African, Middle Eastern and Mediterranean countries. Population increased by annual growth rate of about 2% and reached almost 80 million inhabitants, including the emigrants, by 2009 compared with 6.7 million inhabitants in 1882. It is located in the most arid zones in the world. It has limited natural resources of fresh water where it has fixed annual quota from the Nile River water of 55.5 Billion m³ in addition to very limited arable lands that did not exceed 3.5 million hectare including about 30% of these land being reclaimed in the desert and fringe areas of the Nile Valley and Delta the last century. Agriculture in Egypt use irrigation in more than 95% of the cultivated crops. The main source of fresh water used is the Nile River where more than 85% of the fixed allocated annual quota of 55.5 Billion m³ is used for irrigation. Thus any drastic increase of population poses escalated pressure of the limited natural resources. This situation of *contradiction between the relatively high growth rate of population and the limited natural resources* has led Egypt to become from among the water poor countries since the late nineties of the last century. This problem is aggravated by population growth and is considered as a key challenge for any agricultural policy.

Contribution of the agricultural sector in GDP and the labour force declined during the last half of the last century from 30.6% and about 52% in 1959/60 to 14.1% and 27.2% in 2005/06 respectively. This took place in spite of the increase of the related absolute numbers. Agricultural growth was low (only 2.7% from 1965-1980) and declined to 2.5% during 1980-1990.

Concerning the natural resources the volume of available fresh water doesn't change due to the fixed annual quota from the Nile River while the total area of cultivated lands increased from about 2.458 million hectare in 1950 to about 3.571 million hectare according to the last agricultural census of 2000. Out of this area 2.68 million hectares are located in the old lands. Cropping area increased to about 6 million hectares now as a result of the intensification and other related improvements in inputs, technologies and farming practices.

The land tenure in Egypt has witnessed a sharp drop of the average size of family farms- though differs between old and new lands- from about 2.5 hectare in 1950 to about 1 hectare according to the census of 2000. This was a result of several reasons that included the application of the agrarian reform system based on the laws of 1952 and its amendments in 1956, the inheritance and the finally the liberalization policy under the Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) since the late eighties. Meanwhile, the number of farm holders increased from about 1.003 millions to about 3.718 millions during the same period respectively. Though redistribution of land resources has its positive indicator as improvement of equity and accessibility to land resources in rural areas, this impact was partially exhausted by the fragmentation accompanied with the smaller scale of economy of such farms and absence of reorganization of these farms for consolidated exploitation of the land holdings, except under the agrarian reform system which covered no more than 400 000 hectare of the cultivated lands.

The agricultural sector in Egypt has always been in the lead in implementing policy reforms even before the government officially adopted the economic reform policies in 1991. As a result of implementing two strategies for agricultural development in the 1980s and 1990s, remarkable gains have been achieved through horizontal and vertical expansion, with positive bearing on plant, animal and fishery production. Modern economic policy reform in Egypt began in the agricultural sector in about the mid-1980s prior to any reform in other economic sectors. One major vehicle for these reforms was the Agricultural Production and Credit Project (APCP), which was implemented from 1986 to 1996.

The agriculture sector has gone through several changes since the seventies when Egypt adopted the open door, Inftah, policy at the national level after shifting from the central planned system to the market economy. Due to some early foreseen vision and a series of USAID funded projects implemented in collaboration with the Agriculture sector in Egypt several reform policies, mainly technical, were planned since the late eighties. One key aspect of these policies was an annual program of reforms, or "benchmarks," that were agreed upon with the USAID to be implemented by the Government of Egypt (GOE), primarily the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation. Upon the verification of the accomplishment of these benchmarks in an annual report, USAID made a disbursement of grant assistance to the Government.

**MAI
Montpellier**

A consortium of 13 research teams from 11 European and Mediterranean countries, coordinated by MAI Montpellier, has presented a research project entitled "Sustainable agri-food systems and rural development in the Mediterranean Partner Countries" (SUSTAINMED) under the tendering procedure for the EU's 7th Framework Project for Research and Technological Development. The agreement with the European Commission is now in the process of being finalised.

Broadly speaking the project seeks to examine and assess the effects of commercial, agricultural, rural and environmental policies, both national and European, on the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs). Specific effects have to do with structural changes, distribution of incomes, natural resource management, trade liberalisation, poverty reduction, and employment and migration prospects, as well as trade relations with their main partners, notably the European Union, and their competitiveness in international markets.

The project will employ a wide range of complementary methods and analytical tools, including quantitative modelling, expert assessment, drawing up of indicators and analysis of qualitative data. The results will also help to improve collaborative ventures and economic and commercial relations between the EU and the MPCs.

www.iamm.fr

The current policies of agriculture in Egypt are guided by the following principles (MALR, 2000):

- Gradually removing governmental controls on farm output prices (this does not preclude government voluntary guarantee prices for some strategic crops); crops; areas; and procurement quotas.
- Increasing farm gate prices to cope with international prices.
- Removal of farm input subsidies.
- Removal of governmental constraints on private sector in importing, exporting and distribution of farm inputs to compete with the Principle Bank for Development and Agricultural Credit (PBDAC).
- Removing governmental constraints on private sector in importing and exporting agricultural crops.
- Gradually diverting the role of the PBDAC to financing agricultural development projects.
- Limitation on state ownership of land and sale of new land to private sector.
- Confining the role of the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) to Agricultural Research, Extension and Economic Policies.
- Adjusting the land tenancy system.
- Adjusting the interest rate to reflect the commercial rate.
- Adjusting the foreign exchange rate to reflect the real value of local currency

Agricultural policy implementation process

- The dominance of cash crops on new lands since the new lands are all used for high investment agriculture. Cash crops such as organic fruit and vegetables are partly sold on the national market.
- An increase of cereal production on old lands where a compromise is sought between self-sufficiency and export crops. Production of wheat has increased, while the production of cotton remains stable, indication that this compromise over the years has tended towards keeping or increasing the level of self-sufficiency of cereals, rather than promoting cotton. World market prices of cotton and wheat also play an important role.
- Limitation of rice and sugar cane in order to save water losses.
- Stimulating the positive effects of market-oriented economy. Thus liberalization of the agricultural sector has progressed cautiously in order to maintain social and political stability.

The policy of liberalization and deregulation is still in the process of implementation. In some areas it progress at a slow pace due to the debate over the preferable concept of food security to be adopted and applied specially under the new concept as developed by international and UN organizations. Egypt seeks to find a balance between the market-oriented and the self-sufficiency goals in the agricultural sector. Egypt produces about 60% of its cereals; the rest is imported, partly as a result of the compromise between self-sufficiency and economic considerations. Through the growth of cash crops, however, a higher return per drop of water is achieved. If the entire area was used for cash crops, Egypt's dependency on other countries for basic food supplies would be greater, although its economic power would increase. This would only be possible by creating off-farm opportunities.

The liberalization policy led to an increase in the cropped area, yield, production and meanwhile demand of water. There is a clear increase in production for all crops except sorghum and cotton. Self-sufficiency of wheat reached 60.4% in the year 2000 (MOA, 2000). Egypt enjoyed self-sufficiency in rice, vegetables, fruits, dairy products, poultry, eggs and fish.

However, since irrigation is very crucial to agriculture the irrigation sector, led by the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI), has set several water policies since the seventies to cope with the water demands specially from the main consumer; i.e. the agriculture sector (Nawar, 2008).

Agricultural Strategies

In the context of planning for Socio-economic Development in Egypt the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR) prepared *its third strategy* for agricultural development for the period 1997/98 (the commencement of the Fourth Five Year Plan) up to 2016/2017 . The preparation stage included also the full designing of agricultural programs and projects scheduled to be implemented through the Fourth Agricultural Five Year Plan 1997/98 - 2001/2002.

The Pillars of the 2017 strategy were:

1. Increase of the annual rate of growth of agricultural production to 4.1%.
2. Sustain the increase in cereals production
3. Substantiate Cotton Price Stabilization Fund with the purpose of raising production of this major crop to meet the requirements of domestic mills on one hand and fulfil export objectives on the other.
4. Increase edible oil crops production to substitute imports.
5. Increase sugar production through the expansion of sugar-beet crop
6. Upgrade horticultural crops marketing efficiency.
7. Maintain restrictions on excessive use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers in line with giving more room to biological integrated pest management to survive severe competition in the world markets and keep environment safe.
8. Place more emphasis on irrigation water use efficiency and agricultural soil improvement and maintenance projects.
9. Increase animal production protein through adoption of efficient breeding and genetic improvement programs. Likewise, fish resource development projects exert many efforts to achieve sustainable development of resources kept in the Nile and its tributaries, seas, lakes and fish farms.
10. Support agricultural researches, marketing extension, mobilize woman role in agricultural and rural development and develop agricultural cooperative legislations to cope with the new trends of privatization, liberalization and economic reform programs.
11. Develop the credit policies pursued by the PBDAC.
12. Maintain the system of letting the recently graduated youth to own some reclaimed land in the framework of Mubarak National Project to alleviate unemployment problem. The rest of reclaimed land will be allocated for small farmers investors.
13. Keep proceeding in New Land Reclamation Programs.
14. Creation of conducive environment for Egyptian, Arab and Foreign investors to launch initiatives in agricultural production, post harvest, marketing and export projects.

A new strategy for 2030 which is a revisit of the 2017 strategy was launched early 2009 where its main objectives are the following:

1. Improving rural livelihood (social return),
2. Developing agricultural education & research systems and transfer of agricultural technologies for development,
3. Complete the agricultural sector's institutional reforms,
4. Improve irrigation water use efficiency,
5. Improve agricultural products competitiveness at both domestic and international markets,
6. Increase the agricultural sector ability to achieve sustainable development,
7. Add more value to the agricultural production through processing,
8. Create a more enabling environment for investment in agriculture, thus creating more jobs in the sector.

As announced in the introduction of this strategy several policies have to be launched out to complete the reform process and to help integrating Egypt agriculture in the world economy. Thus several partnership agreements were signed with blocks such as the one with the EU market in June 2004 and its amendments in 2009.

Potential impacts of The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) projects on both water and agricultural policies

New horizon of the agricultural policies in Egypt takes into consideration the regional context specially the Nile basin. By analyzing NBI projects, their goals and objectives, it could be concluded that they will positively affect the implementation of Egypt's water policy guidelines as the Shared Vision Program (SVP) to build confidence contribute in capacity building, environmental awareness, water quality monitoring, stakeholders' assistance in efficient use of water for agricultural production, confidence building between riparian countries, benefit sharing and stakeholder participation as a wide regional framework for cooperation between Nile Basin countries. The two Subsidiary Action Programs (SAPs) are also expected to play a major role in transboundary IWRM between Nile Basin countries in order to create win-win solutions for water issues throughout the Basin by providing a pool of reliable data exchange leading to efficient planning and management of water resources and holistic solutions for challenges facing the Nile Basin Countries in different domains as water scarcity, flood preparedness and early warning, flood protection, irrigation and drainage, food security & poverty alleviation, and all other issues concerning water in the region.

MAI Chania

The 113th seminar of the EAAE (European Association of Agricultural Economists) was held from 3 to 6 September at MAI Chania, which organised the event.

This scientific meeting brought together experts from several countries as well as representatives of the FAO, the European Commission and the agricultural profession.

The seminar was devoted to matters relating to the resilience of agri-food industries and the food chain in general. Discussion accordingly focussed on new technologies, trading rules, sanitary standards and the steady transformation of institutional frameworks.

One of the main goals was to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the European food industry in a changing international context, bearing in mind that this sector is crucial to the development of agricultural sectors and one of the main sources of employment in the European Union.

<http://eaae113.maich.gr>

The agricultural policy will also be positively affected by the NBI projects through creating an opportunity for agricultural trading between Nile Basin countries (using the Nile as a trading pathway in safe areas) and opening the floor for off-farm agriculture and Egyptian agricultural investments in the Nile Basin countries in order to provide food security and economic prosperity in the region. Egypt can consequently concentrate on cash crops, industry and tourism which have higher economic revenue with less water consumption. Some general issues constitute an obstacle in the realization of NBI goals in the field of regional agricultural investment and trading:

- Absence of roads suitable for trading
- Political instability
- Diseases minimizing people's capacity for production
- Lack in standardization and intermediate industries (cooling, freezing, packing...etc).

The most recent national agricultural strategy and water policy tend to be integrated at political and executive levels. Currently, the global context is seriously taken into consideration in the policies of both sectors. The legislative frameworks of the two sectors are under high attention and are in the process of deep review for the sake of drastic changes.

Nevertheless, it worth mentioning that the long term impacts of SAP and its related policies in agriculture did not benefit much the small farmers who represent the bulk of producers. Those who benefit are rather the big agricultural producers and farmers who have better linkages with the world market and get benefit from the export subsidies. Small farmers and even the bulk of consumers suffer from depletion and even elimination of subsidies as well as the disorganization in the farming sector that followed the full withdrawal of state agencies from the organization and even previous control of production and pricing of the product. Small farmers become more vulnerable to the economic shocks and poverty. The latest 2008 World Bank report indicates the increase of poverty, specially the extreme shape, among rural population and specifically the small farmers. A very recent interagency UN mission report in 2009 strongly recommended adopting pro poor policies in the agriculture sector to mitigate the negative impacts of the last world food and financial crises. There is still more need to reorganize the agriculture sector to ensure equitable opportunities and balance between the economic and social considerations for both the small family farms, which will remain the big bulk of producers in the sector, and the big and commercial farms, growing mostly, in the new lands.

However, as a result of several policies to promote integration of the agricultural sector in Egypt in the world agricultural market the last two years witnessed significant increase of the share of agricultural exports in the total exports. The Egyptian-European partnership agreement since 2004 and its expansion in 2009 along with the policies that support wide spread application of GAP in Egyptian Agriculture, specifically in the developed subsector in the new reclaimed lands, as in the mega national horizontal expansion projects, such as Toshka, Eastern Alowainat in the southern region and Alsalam canal in the northern region as new virgin areas, have significant impacts in this regard. In the writer view these new mega projects might be, in spite of all other criticism and drawbacks, good reservoir in future for the expected negative impacts of global warming and climate change on the Northern fertile lands in the Delta. So, these projects need further and deep review of the socio-economic and settlement development policies to be adopted there and not to emphasize only on their economic return which is the case so far.

Interview

Giuseppe Politi

President of the Mediterranean Committee of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)
President of the Confederazione Italiana Agricoltori (CIA)

Q - How would you assess the current state of agricultural organisations in the Mediterranean?

Despite the close geographical and climatic similarities and the common cultural and historical heritage of Mediterranean agricultures, the agricultural profession in the North is clearly very different from its counterpart in the South. Collective producers' organisations exist on all sides of the Mediterranean Basin but levels of development, modes of operation and ideas about farming vary from one country to another. In the North the agricultural profession is quite well ordered and its organisations have a degree of negotiating power, which confers considerable legitimacy on them in the eyes of the authorities and the societies they represent. In the South, mobilisation of civil society in the face of difficult economic and political circumstances has unfortunately not gone far enough to produce structurally and institutionally powerful forms of agricultural organisation. The organisations to the South and East of the Mediterranean, barely decentralised and even lacking legal recognition in some cases, have difficult asserting themselves, overcoming their organisational problems and freeing themselves from their dependence on the authorities.

Q - In what ways can this type of organisation contribute to future sustainable economic and social development in the Mediterranean rim countries?

With the relinquishment by certain governments of their responsibility for supporting agriculture and the introduction of liberalisation policies that accentuate disparities in access to goods and resources, the agricultural organisations now play a crucial role in promoting sustainable economic and social development in the region. Agricultural organisations act collectively in pursuit of their two core missions: first, defending the interests of the agricultural worlds they represent; and second, organising the provision of services to agriculture. The farmers' organisations serve as an interface between local society and the ever changing economic, social and institutional environment. They enable farmers to cooperate on the common goals of building capacity and increasing their power to negotiate policy on matters of concern to them, whether at local, national or international level. If the objective of most agricultural and rural policies in the region is to eradicate poverty, we are firmly convinced that rural populations will reach this objective more rapidly once they are organised and their organisations are more powerful.

A central challenge for producer organisations in the Mediterranean countries is to influence markets and public policy negotiations, which are marked by severe economic, social and political asymmetry. These organisations are able to reduce this asymmetry through collective action: supporting the integration of small farmers in markets, participating in the restoration of support services for agriculture and the rural world and helping to implement development policies. Farmers are therefore important players in sustainable agricultural development and their organisations must be assigned a key role in the policy-making process. For agriculture does not merely provide food, it also provides rural communities with jobs and incomes and helps to protect natural resources.

Q - In what areas would you like to see partnerships forged between agricultural organisations on the two shores of the Mediterranean?

In producing accredited products of good quality, exporting Mediterranean products, pooling expertise, developing effective irrigation systems and increasing profitability. Hand in hand with the need to open up and expand markets comes the need to forge partnerships, in order to avoid competition between the two shores. Organisations in the North and South have repeatedly expressed the wish to collaborate by pooling experiences and expertise on the basis of common interests. In order to overcome competition, which is no longer limited to agrifood firms in the Euro-Mediterranean zone, producers from this area should enhance their competitiveness by making the most of their competitive advantage. On this score it will be necessary to cooperate on the question of certification of product quality and protection of origin, product quality being an essential factor in facilitating market integration and promoting and preserving territories. North-South partnerships therefore need to be established in order to create synergies, increase the incomes of producers and the profitability of farms, and contribute to the sustainable economic and social development of the region.

MAI Bari

A new programme of decentralised cooperation (SPIIE) is being launched in September 2009. Ten Italian regions will be intervening in the Nile Delta to develop the institutional dialogue with Egypt and improve the quantity and quality of agricultural output.

The aim of this programme is to encourage harmonisation of the rules and procedures for supplying fresh Egyptian goods to the European market, as called for under Euro-Mediterranean agreements.

Puglia will be leading the regions in this cooperation initiative, which stems from agreements entered into by Egypt and Italy and reflects the Italian authorities' wish to support the establishment of a green corridor between the two countries.

The programme is being coordinated by MAI Bari and will involve the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Research Centre (ARC) together with numerous partners from the scientific and agricultural worlds.

The duration of the programme is to be two years (2009-2011).

www.iamb.it

CIHEAM - IFAP

CIHEAM has been pursuing its collaboration with the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), and more especially with its Mediterranean Committee.

CIHEAM and MAI Bari officials are to attend the series of events being organised by IFAP in Catania (Italy) from 22 to 26 September 2009. First they will participate in a seminar on the role of women in agriculture and rural affairs. They will then contribute to the meeting of the Development Cooperation Committee by outlining the dynamic of the CIHEAM-IFAP relationship. Lastly they will attend the meeting of the Mediterranean Committee, which is focussing this year on climate change and responsible management of water resources.

IFAP is the world farmers' organisation. Founded in 1946, it represents over 600 million farm families grouped in 115 national organisations in 80 countries. IFAP has General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Its Mediterranean Committee has a threefold mission: lobbying political institutions, serving as a platform where farmers of the region can exchange ideas and experiences, and stimulating technical cooperation between member farmers' organisations.

www.ifap.org

Moreover, in view of the vulnerability of the region to the effects of climate change, producers on both shores have to face the challenge of managing natural resources, particularly agricultural water. Farmers on both shores are required to collaborate on the task of identifying sustainable agricultural systems (irrigated and other) that will enable them to manage what has become a rare resource. Partnerships therefore need to be established for the purposes of building capacity among producers and pooling experience in adapting to and alleviating the effects of climate change. It is necessary to initiate a dynamic regional partnership between countries with different levels of development with a view to reducing disparities and tightening links between them.

Q - Which areas of common education most need to be developed to meet the needs of small Mediterranean agricultural producers in North and South?

Mediterranean populations need to become aware of the need to integrate different aspects of sustainable development in key sectors of the economy, particularly agriculture, which necessarily involves the dissemination of knowledge through education and training. Flanking measures have been requested by farmers' organisations in the South and East of the Mediterranean to help them build capacity and improve their expertise in adapting production systems to meet prevailing challenges. Priority needs to be given to promoting sustainability among the Mediterranean farming population through the organisations that represent them. It is therefore necessary to change unsustainable modes of production and consumption while managing natural features that are under threat in the region: most notably water, but also soil and biodiversity. Concerted, collective regional action is needed to promote viable production practices that respect territories and preserve traditional skills (required to produce typical local products), cultural heritage and landscape heritage. At the same time it is important to encourage progress in modes of production by promoting innovation and new clean technologies in agriculture. Recourse to renewable energy sources, optimised management of water for irrigation, and promotion of Mediterranean *terroir* products could lead to significant economic and social progress. In this connection the role of northern organisations in supporting southern farmers is particularly important.

Q - What can IFAP do to help implement projects designed to make Mediterranean agricultural products better known outside the region?

IFAP should encourage and facilitate meetings between agricultural organisations (from the Mediterranean and elsewhere) and financiers (private and international) to draw up and implement projects to export "Mediterranean foodstuffs". Most Mediterranean producers are simultaneously confronted with the problems of managing their output and gaining access to the agrifood industries. Market integration remains a sensitive issue given the inadequacy of current agricultural and rural policy and the challenges posed by globalisation and liberalisation of trade in agricultural products. On this score there is a clearly perceived need for agricultural and rural development strategies at national and regional level that will revitalise regional economies and develop domestic and international markets. The growth of international and domestic demand for typical, high-quality Mediterranean agrifood products is an opportunity that should be seized if regional agriculture is to be made more competitive at global level. IFAP would have a key role to play here as an international platform, bringing together agricultural organisations from around the Mediterranean rim that are capable of fostering cooperation with various partners and international bodies. It would also coordinate initiatives designed to ensure that concerns over promotion of Mediterranean products were reflected in Euro-Mediterranean policies or future programmes. Through its lobbying work, IFAP works to promote a regional policy whose object is to gain recognition for the quality of Mediterranean agricultural produce and remuneration for producers that matches their efforts. The role of its Mediterranean Committee would be to create an environment favourable to cooperation. In practical terms it is necessary to encourage contacts between professional organisations that wish to implement projects and backers who wish to support agriculture by investing in Mediterranean food and promoting it outside the region.

Interview by Hassane Tlili

Journalist specialising in agricultural and environmental issues

News in Brief

The meat market in the Middle East/North Africa region

The Middle East/North Africa region has become an important meat importer, even though total meat production there has increased fivefold since the sixties. According to data from the FAO, total meat production rose from 1.2 million tonnes in 1961 to 6 million tonnes in 2007. However, owing to the high rate of population growth and changes in consumption patterns in these countries, demand for meat has been outstripping supply, especially since 2000. Meat consumption rose sharply between 1980 and 2003, particularly in Israel, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Turkey, where total meat consumption more than doubled. Meat imports to the region have consequently risen considerably (in 2006 they were 745,197 tonnes, double the amount in 1982).

According to the International Meat Secretariat's 2009 Fact Book, meat exports to countries in the Middle East and North Africa have mainly come from outside the region. The United States and European Union were the main trading partners for many years, but now other countries are establishing themselves in this market. Australia has become an important supplier of beef and livestock, accounting for 92% of sheep stock imports, and with New Zealand it is also the main supplier of mutton and lamb. The two countries likewise have a significant share in the Asian market and specialise in providing halal meat for the world market, relying on their image as suppliers of top quality food. Brazil has also become a major supplier of meat products to the region, dominating the market in poultry and beef products. In 2004, it supplied 47% of Algeria's and as much as 91% of Egypt's meat imports. Today Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Libya are among the top ten buyers of Brazilian beef. Other countries, such as India or Argentina, are steadily increasing their share in the region's beef market and this trend may well continue, given the great potential of the halal meat market, which is attracting more and more exporting countries. According to a report issued in June 2008 by the Canadian Government's Agri-Food Trade Service, annual sales of halal products were estimated at 580 billion dollars in 2008 and world trade in halal products amounted to around 80 billion dollars, or 5% of all agri-food trade. Given the rate at which the Moslem population is growing, the rise in incomes and increased level of consumption in the main Moslem markets, halal foodstuffs could account for about 20% of world trade in food products within a few years.

Brazil, guest of honour at the 13th African Union Summit and advocate for agricultural development

On 1 July 2009, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who had been asked to give an opening address to the meeting of heads of state of the African Union in Syrte (Libya), said he would be willing to support an agricultural revolution in Africa. Staying with the theme of the summit, entitled "Investing in agriculture for economic growth and food security", Lula explained that such a revolution would require investment in family agriculture and creation of jobs in the rural environment. According to him, the Brazilian experience demonstrated that productivity in small-scale agriculture and security of food production were essential if the fight against hunger were to be waged effectively. Lula also spoke out in favour of bioenergy and biofuel production, saying that Africa might for example increase its sugar cane production in order to make ethanol. The Brazilian president also defended his vision of increased South-South cooperation as "*an attack force against the distortions and inequities that persist in the global order*". He went on to say: "*We share with Africa similar development challenges: fighting famine and poverty [and] guaranteeing food security*".

Lula accordingly proposed that a conference of African ministers of agriculture be organised in Brazil to strengthen partnerships between the two continents. Brasilia's links with the African and Middle Eastern countries have tightened considerably in recent years with the adoption of a resolute policy of cooperation, the opening up of diplomatic relations and increased trade, which has largely concentrated on agricultural products. Brazil increased its sales of agricultural products to the countries of the Arab League fivefold in the space of a decade (from 1.3 billion dollars in 1998 to 6 billion dollars in 2008). The North Africa/Middle East region currently accounts for around 10% of Brazil's agricultural exports. Moreover, according to the latest data from the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply, the Middle East has increased its imports of Brazilian goods (up by 11%) more than any region other than Asia (up by 13%) since January 2009.

MAI Montpellier

A consortium of five research teams, associated with six professional partners and coordinated by MAI Montpellier, has been assigned a research project under the French National Research Agency's ALIA tendering procedure. The duration of this project, entitled FLONUDEP, is four years.

The aim is to promote sectors committed to sustainable development by means of a decision-making tool, which assesses fruit and vegetable sectors in the light of environmental sustainability, nutritional quality of produce, economic viability and social equity.

The sectors in question are subject to deseasonalisation, delocation of production and crop intensification. Consumption of fruit and vegetables is still considered to be insufficient according to international recommendations and does not seem to be improving, despite campaigns to promote it. It might be possible to revive consumption by highlighting three key selling points: price, nutritional quality and environmental soundness. While the professional is eager to offer consumers the best possible combination of the three, he is not equipped to decide whether to favour one over another.

The fact is that any decision to reorganise activity could have serious consequences for the competitiveness of an enterprise.

FLONUDEP seeks to develop a method for evaluating all aspects of a food sector at the same time using life cycle analysis (LCA) of the products.

Good results for the Spanish food industry in 2008 in spite of the crisis

The Spanish agri-food industry saw its sales rise by 1.4% to 83 billion euros last year, according to the 2008 economic report by the FIAB (Spanish federation of food and drink industries), issued on 28 May 2009. The agrifood industries have established themselves as the country's leading manufacturing sector and a motor for economic and social development, accounting for 17% of industrial GDP and 7% of total national GDP. The 2008 results for employment and foreign trade were also good. The agrifood industry is unusual in that its workforce actually rose by 3% to 502,150 in the course of the year. In all 17% of industrial employment is concentrated in the food and drinks sector, which provides for 2.4% of all employment in Spain. As to foreign trade, exports rose by 9.6% on 2007 while imports were up by 6.9%. It must also be emphasised that foreign inward investment in the Spanish agri-food industry rose by 28%. In February 2009 the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture (MARM) and the FIAB signed an agreement to pursue further modernisation and innovation in the sector and to relaunch technology centres.

The agreement had three main objectives: promoting product quality, increasing competitiveness, and improving the international presence of Spanish products. In the first months of 2009, however, some companies, especially those associated with the hotel sector, began to feel the effects of the world economic crisis. What is more, exports of Spanish fruit and vegetables declined in the first months of 2009 according to estimates by FEPEX (the Spanish federation of fruit and vegetable exporters). The sector could therefore be feeling the effects of the economic crisis more acutely in 2009. Given the general climate, the Spanish fruit and vegetable sector has been showing signs of nervousness in the past few months at the increase in fruit and vegetable imports from countries such as Morocco. Professionals from the sector have expressed opposition to the negotiations in progress between the EU and Morocco, whose object is to amend the agricultural provisions of the association agreement with a view to opening up the EU market a little more to Moroccan exports.

Vertical urban farms as a way of achieving food security in the long term?

Put simply, a vertical farm is a tower or vertical structure used for the cultivation of significant quantities of food products, thus allowing more to be produced on a smaller area of land. The basic idea, originally developed by the American professor, Dickson Despommier, has spawned an extensive body of research by architects, biologists and agronomists. Most of the projects submitted so far involve very high technology farms which constitute self-contained eco-systems located inside cities. These farms will be fitted with photovoltaic panels and wind turbines, making them self-sufficient in energy, and will incorporate systems for recycling wastewater and solid organic waste. This is a new conception of agriculture, which seeks to provide a solution to the shortage of arable land worldwide and thus meet the need to increase food production in face of growing structural constraints. Vertical farms will employ hydroponic production methods, whereby crops are produced indoors with a liquid solution containing natural minerals in place of soil. With this technique fruit and vegetables ripen more quickly and it is therefore possible to obtain several harvests per year. This method of cultivation under glass without soil is already used by farmers. In addition to other benefits, vertical farms are thought to be environmentally-friendly, in that they supply towns directly and thus reduce transportation of fruit and vegetables and CO₂ emissions to a minimum.

This form of agriculture is also independent of seasons and the vagaries of weather. Designs are already being produced. In 1999, for example, Dickson Despommier and Eric Ellingsen envisaged a vertical farm in the form of a glass pyramid, while in 2005 Pierre Sartoux and Augustin Rosenstiehl from the French *Atelier SOA architectes* presented a "living tower", which combined agricultural space, dwellings and offices and was considered to be more economically viable. Americans Andrew Kranis, Blake Kurasek and Chris Jacobs, as well as the Canadian Gordon Graff and the Belgian Vincent Callebaut have all conceived of different models of vertical farms, and their ideas are surprisingly innovative. However, the idea has also come in for criticism, particularly on economic grounds in that developing these high technology systems on an industrial scale would clearly be very costly. Moreover, it has yet to be proven that producing "vertically" would really be more ecologically sound. For the time being therefore vertical farms are no more than a futurist project but it would no doubt be as well to pay close attention to them when considering long term solutions to the problem of ensuring greater food security worldwide.

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Robin Mearns et al. (Eds.), *"The social dimension of climate change. Equity and vulnerability in a warming world"*, World Bank Publications, Washington (USA) August 2009.

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FAO, *"High Food prices and the food crisis: experiences and lessons learned"*, The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets 2009, FAO, Rome (Italy), 2009.

Events

24-27 September 2009 – Djerba (Tunisia)

Symposium "Risks and inequalities in water management in the Mediterranean", jointly organised by the research laboratories LADYSS and IRESA. ([information](#))

28-30 September 2009 – Zanzibar (Tanzania)

Africa Arab Agro-Investment Summit 2009. Organised by the Government of Zanzibar and Europe SADC-States Bridge (ESSB). ([information](#))

27 September- 2 October 2009 – Marrakech (Morocco)

16th International Population Conference, organised by the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP). ([information](#))

5- 6 October 2009 – Bizerte (Tunisia)

Seminar, organised by the CCIFM as part of the *Tech Fruit et Légumes* Initiative, on technologies and innovation in the sector. The aim is to establish synergies between competitive clusters in the North and South of the Mediterranean.

7-9 October 2009 – Cesena (Italy)

26th International Macfruit Exhibition. The Italian benchmark for the fruit and vegetable second provides a link between different producer countries in the Mediterranean and the major international markets. ([information](#))

23-24 November 2009 – Paris (France)

Symposium "Prices and Market Risks: farmers and volatile exchange rates", organised by CIRAD, FARM, IGPDE and Pluriagri, with the collaboration of the AFD. ([information](#))

25-27 November 2009 – Almería (Spain)

XXV Expo Agro-Almería. Mediterranean agrifood industry's international trade fair, organised by the Almería Chamber of Commerce and the Andalusian Government. ([information](#))

CIHEAM website

Recent publications

CIHEAM Analytical Notes

- *Who knows the Developing 8 Forum: the mysteries of an unsung collaboration*, Marine Beslay, no 49, June 2009.
- *Current events in Mediterranean Agriculture (May-July 2009)*, Ciheam (collectively), no 50, July 2009.
- *Constraints and opportunities for irrigated agriculture in Tunisia*, Fethi Lebdi, no 51, August 2009.

CIHEAM Briefing Notes

- *The outlook for the Italian agrifood sector*, Paolo De Castro and Antonio Felice, no 59, June 2009.
- *Agriculture in the new Euro-Mediterranean framework*, Sébastien Abis and Paula Cusi Echaniz, no 60, July 2009
- *Impacts of food insecurity and the global financial crisis on Mediterranean countries*, Paula Cusi Echaniz, no 61, July 2009.

NewMedit

- Summary of 02/2009 issue of the review, June 2009.

CIHEAM Watch Letter

- Watch Letter no 09, "Drought management and desertification in the Mediterranean", Spring 2009.

Options méditerranéennes

- *Transitions foncières dans les Balkans – Roumanie, Albanie, Grèce* (A82)
- *Water culture and Water conflict in the Mediterranean Area* (A83)
- *Irrigation in Mediterranean Agriculture: challenges and innovation for the next decades* (A84)
- *Nutritional and Foraging Ecology of Sheep and Goats* (A85)

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The Watch Letter

Every quarter
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The next issue will be
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