

“Harnessing the Power of Legumes: Climate Solutions Rooted in Mediterranean Food Tradition”

19 November 2024

14:00 to 15:15 (CET) (Baku time: 17.00 to 18.15)

- **Mouin Hamze, CIHEAM Bari**



Professor Mouin Hamzé (Lebanon) holds a “Doctorat d’Etat” in Science from France and is an Emeritus Professor and Former Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences at the Lebanese University. He previously served as the Secretary General of the National Council for Scientific Research in Lebanon (CNRS-L). Currently, he assumes the role of Chairperson of the Management Board at the Euro-Mediterranean University (EMUNI) in Slovenia and serves as a Scientific Advisor at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of CIHEAM Bari. Prof. Hamzé is recognized as a regional advisor and expert on science policy, research, development, and innovation. He actively chairs and coordinates numerous international and Mediterranean organizations and programs devoted to advancing higher education, research, agriculture, environment, and scientific and technological collaboration. Prof. Hamzé has published more than 100 papers and technical reports on relevant topics, including natural resource management, food security, sustainable agricultural technology, research policy, ethics and management. Additionally, he is an accomplished author and has published and edited more than 15 books, including his recent publication, “Empowering Knowledge and Innovation: Challenges for the Arab Countries (in Arabic and English, 402 pages, Arab Thought Foundation 2020)

- **Teodoro Miano, Secretary General of CIHEAM**



Teodoro Miano is a Full Professor of Agricultural Chemistry at the Department of Soil, Plant, and Food Science of the University Aldo Moro of Bari (Italy). He is an agronomist and started his academic career after graduating from the University of Basilicata (Italy) in 1987. In 1992, he entered as an Associate Professor at the University of Bari, where he later became a full professor in 2001. He pursued his research in the United States, Germany, Switzerland, and Norway. Teodoro Miano has been President of the Italian Society of Agricultural Chemistry, President of the European Soil Systems Sciences Division of the European Geosciences Union, and President of the International Humic Substances Society (IHSS). He was also nominated Deputy Dean for International Relationships at the University Aldo Moro of Bari (Italy). In 1996, Teodoro Miano initiated a collaboration with CIHEAM Bari, by participating in their educational programs and in research and cooperation projects. He has been a senior consultant in a CIHEAM Bari Task Force and was nominated member of the CIHEAM Scientific Advisory Board, becoming President in the second term of office. In 2018, he was selected by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to become Italian Delegate to the CIHEAM Governing Board, where he also acted as one of the Vice Presidents.

- **Teodoro Calles, FAO - Plant Production and Protection**



Teodoro Calles is an Agricultural Officer at the Plant Production and Protection Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) who advocates for the inclusion of legumes in agricultural production as a means to improve the sustainability of production systems and nutrition of smallholder farmers. As an agronomist, Teodoro has worked on research projects oriented towards improving low-input agricultural systems, including grasslands, through the inclusion of leguminous species. He is also well experienced on plant genetic resources and taxonomy of legumes.

Teodoro holds a bachelor's degree in agronomy from the Central University of Venezuela, Maracay, Venezuela and a master's degree in agricultural sciences, food security and natural resources management from the University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart, Germany, where also earned a doctorate degree in agricultural sciences.

- **Antonella Autino, Coordinator of the PRIMA Program and Project Coordinator of the Coordinated Support Action, FUTURE4PRIMA**



Ms. Antonella Autino (Italy) holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences and brings over 20 years of experience in European research and innovation. Since 2018, she has served as the Programme Coordinator of the PRIMA programme, a flagship Euro-Mediterranean initiative supported by the EU's Horizon Europe and Horizon 2020 frameworks. In 2024, she expanded her role to include Project Coordinator of the Coordinated Support Action under Horizon Europe. Previously, she was Project Manager of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Mediterranean, where she championed the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Her expertise spans policy development in water, food systems,

agriculture, and environmental sustainability, with a strong emphasis on science diplomacy and EU partnerships.

- **Konstadinos Mattas, CIHEAM Chania**



[Konstadinos Mattas](#), a distinguished Professor at [Aristotle University of Thessaloniki](#) and [CIHEAM](#) CHANIA, Greece, specializes in Agricultural Policy, focusing on Agricultural and Social Policy, Rural Development, and interdisciplinary research. He has authored over 300 peer-reviewed articles, several books and has presented at numerous international conferences as keynote speaker. As managing editor of the *Agricultural Economics Review* and associate editor for several international journals, he contributes significantly to academic publishing and to communication of scientific and applied knowledge. With extensive experience in EU research committees and projects as leader or coordinator like [EWABELT](#), [GI SMART](#), [COUSIN](#), [LEGENDARY](#) (a merely legumes EU horizon project) , [ECO-READY](#), and [BIOVALUE](#). In addition, he collaborated with over fifty international students supervising them in their MSc or PhD level.

- **Nahla Hwala, AUB Lebanon**



Dr. Nahla Hwala is a professor of Human Nutrition at the American University of Beirut and the president of the Lebanese Order of Dietitians. Dr. Hwala is a US Registered, a Lebanese Licensed Dietician, and a fellow of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS) and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. She received national, regional, and international recognition. Her research focus is Nutrition, obesity, Mediterranean Diet & food security. In 2023, Dr. Hwala was recognized among the world's top 2% of most-cited researchers and received CIHEAM MEDALLION AWARD for her contributions as president and member of the CIHEAM advisory board.

- **Elen Lemaître Curri, Assistant to the director at CIHEAM Montpellier (CIHEAM Montpellier)**



Elen Lemaître-Curri is an agricultural economist and doctor in public policy. Before joining CIHEAM Montpellier as Deputy Director in 2020, she worked for national and international organisations, including the FAO Investment Center, the French Commissariat for Sustainable Development and the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan Regional Activity Centre Plan Bleu as a Director. Since 2017, her work focuses on sustainability transitions in the Mediterranean region.

- **Gianluigi Cardone, CIHEAM Bari**



Gianluigi Cardone graduated in Agricultural Science in 1993. He worked at the Consortium of Defence and Exploitation of Intensive Productions, of Environment and Rural Territory of Province of Bari (Italy), as technical assistance officer. Since 2004, he has been working at the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies in Bari (CIHEAM Bari). As scientific administrator, he works on rural development, transition towards sustainable agri-food systems, revitalization of the Mediterranean diet, farm management, agribusiness, sustainability assessment, and environmental and socio-economic impacts evaluation. He teaches in the master courses at CIHEAM Bari and he is supervisor of science master's theses and doctoral research projects. Furthermore, he coordinates and supports projects within the framework of international cooperation.

- **Fares Howari, Ajman University, UAE**



Dr. Fares Howari is a distinguished environmental scientist and educator with over 25 years of experience in higher education and research. As Dean of the College of Humanities and Sciences at Ajman University, UAE, and former Interim Vice Provost at Fort Valley State University, he champions interdisciplinary programs integrating emerging technologies with environmental sustainability. His research focuses on environmental monitoring, geochemistry, and remote sensing, with over 150 peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Howari expertise in sustainable water and energy management, combined with his innovative approach to environmental education, has established him as a leading authority in preparing future generations to address complex environmental challenges. His inclusive leadership style and commitment to scientific excellence continue to advance environmental literacy and sustainability on a global scale.

- **Hammou Laamrani, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA**

- **Joaquim Balduque, CIHEAM Zaragoza**



Agronomist, Agricultural Engineer and Master in Agronomic Engineering. More than 20 years of experience working for private companies and official institutions. Professionally developed in relation to R&D in agriculture, through research on pests, as well as evaluating and developing phytosanitary products and seeds for different crops. Currently Project Manager at the CIHEAM Zaragoza (Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza), where, among other projects, he manages BELIS, a HE Innovation Action, aiming to increase the competitiveness of the legume breeding sector in the EU and Associated Countries by improving methodologies and governance structures, as well as the delivery of the genetic advances achieved.

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