

Preface

The sixth CIHEAM annual report, which was drawn up in the course of 2003, is being published as the 2004 report so that the reference date for this report coincides with the year of publication. Readers, librarians and archivists are thus requested to note that, although there is no 2003 report, there is no interruption in the series; we have simply brought the reference date into line with the calendar.

The year 2003 was marked by three major events – the reform of the CAP, the enlargement of the European Union, and the crisis in the World Trade Organisation, which emerged at the Cancun Conference.

Such was the context chosen to observe, study, analyse and understand the current changes in Mediterranean agriculture and the role which the agricultural sector plays both in each individual country and in the region as a whole.

At the meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture and Fisheries of the European and Mediterranean countries, an event which took place in Venice from 27 to 29 November 2003, all of those administrators called upon the CIHEAM to clarify the role which agriculture, fisheries and food can play in the effort to build up a Euro-Mediterranean area of trade and solidarity and in the consolidation of a Mediterranean identity in the food sector at the world level.

It is our ambition to accommodate that request, and we trust that the present sixth report reflects that ambition. We have structured our report in four major parts.

- **Part I** presents the reasons for and modalities of the reform of the CAP as well as the enlargement of the European Union, pointing to the upheavals which can be expected of this process in the dynamics of Mediterranean agricultural systems.
- **Part II** focuses on the sectoral and national aspects of the analysis of production and policies, an approach which provides a basis for measuring to what extent certain gaps have been bridged whereas other new disparities have been created.

- **Part III** discusses the agro-food economy in the Mediterranean region as an essential element for understanding the handicaps which an urbanised and highly internationalised Mediterranean region will experience in the medium and long term.
- And finally, **Part IV** presents the main indicators of agricultural and food development in the region, based primarily on the work of the CIHEAM Mediterranean Observatory.

Our report is intended as a key item in the body of material made available to policymakers, researchers, teachers and journalists in their efforts to promote the creation of a Mediterranean region which in our view is as uncertain as it is necessary.

I wish to thank our research colleagues, who have come from research centres, colleges and universities in the Mediterranean Basin or from the Mediterranean institutes of agronomy, for their involvement in the production of the present report. Does not the debate which they have engaged in amongst themselves already foreshadow a Mediterranean community?

I am grateful to Mahmoud ALLAYA from the IAM in Montpellier for taking on the task of coordinating this 2004 edition, which will be published in French, English and Arabic, and I wish to pay tribute to Enzo CHIOCCIOLI, the former Secretary General of the CIHEAM, who for six years directed the production and publication of this annual report, a publication which has become an invaluable tool for academic exchange in the Mediterranean region.

Bertrand HERVIEU
CIHEAM Secretary General