

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

CIHEAM ZARAGOZA

aecid masar

cooperación española

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

*International Symposium*

# Challenges of Phytosanitary Control and Opportunities for Collaboration within the Mediterranean Region

CIHEAM Zaragoza, Campus Aula Dei, Zaragoza (Spain)

**19 November 2026**

# DRAFT PROGRAMME

HYBRID FORMAT
with English-French-Spanish interpretation

| | |
|---|---|
| **9:00 - 9:20** | Registration and welcome coffee |
| **9:20 - 9:50** | **Opening Session**<br>**Speakers:** Ramzi Belkhodja, CIHEAM Zaragoza • Government of Aragon • Mohamed El Hady Sidatt, FAO Sub-Regional Office for North Africa • Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) • Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). |
| **9:50 - 10:20** | **Opening Keynote Speech I**<br>**Title:** *The current phytosanitary landscape in the Mediterranean region.*<br>**Speaker**: Mohamed El Hady Sidatt, FAO. |
| **10:20 - 10:50** | **Opening Keynote Speech II**<br>**Title:** *Euro-Mediterranean cooperation as a tool for strengthening plant health systems.*<br>**Speaker**: Camille Picard, European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) [online] |
| **10:50 - 11:00** | **Discussion**<br>**Moderator:** Joaquín Balduque, CIHEAM Zaragoza. |
| **11:00 - 11:30** | *Mediterranean breakfast* |
| **11:30 - 12:00** | **Technical Session I**<br>**Title:** *Emerging pests and diseases of concern in the Mediterranean basin.*<br>**Speaker**: Mohamed Habib Ben Jamaa, Near East and North Africa Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO). |
| **12:00 - 12:30** | **Technical Session II**<br>**Title:** *Diagnostics, reference laboratories, and early detection capacity.*<br>**Speaker**: Irene Suárez Fernández, Spanish National Laboratory for Plant Health and Hygiene (LNSVH). |
| **12:30- 13:30** | **Expert Panel - Technical challenges**<br>**Theme:** *Surveillance, diagnostics and response: where are the main technical gaps?*<br>**Moderator:** Irene Suárez Fernández, LNSVH Spain.<br>**Panellists:** Mohamed El Hady Sidatt, FAO • Mohamed Habib Ben Jamaa, NEPPO • José Ángel Reyes, Government of the Canary Islands, Spain • Hicham Saoud, National Office of Food Safety ONSSA Morocco. |
| **13:30 - 15:00** | *Lunch break* |
| **15:00 - 15:30** | **Technical Session III**<br>**Title:** *Emerging plant health threats and the changing dynamics of phytosanitary risk.*<br>**Speaker**: Diego Olmo García, Official Plant Health Laboratory of the Balearic Islands (LOSVIB) |
| **15:30 - 16:00** | **Technical Session IV**<br>**Title:** *National and regional surveillance systems: lessons learned and operational needs.*<br>**Speaker**: Raúl Langa, Plant Health and Certification Centre of the Government of Aragón (CSCV). |
| **16:00- 16:45** | **Closing Round Table - From Dialogue to Commitments**<br>**Theme:** *Concrete opportunities and next steps for Mediterranean collaboration.*<br>**Moderator:** Alun Jones, CIHEAM Zaragoza.<br>**Participants:** Miguel Minguet, ASAJA/COPA-COGECA • Mohamed El Hady Sidatt, FAO • Mohamed Habib Ben Jamaa, NEPPO • Belén Martínez, MAPA Spain • Naima Mahfoudhi, National Plant Protection Organization Tunisia. |
| **16:45- 17:00** | **Open Discussion & Closing Remarks**<br>Mohamed El Hady Sidatt, FAO • Joaquín Balduque, CIHEAM Zaragoza. |

*Note: speakers and participants are indicative and subject to confirmation. Timings allow short transitions between sessions.*