

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

CIHEAM ZARAGOZA

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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

HYBRID FORMAT
with English-French-Spanish interpretation

PROGRAMME

SPEAKERS' BIOS

9:00 - 9:20	Registration and welcome coffee
9:20 - 9:50	**Opening Session** **Speakers:** Ramzi Belkhodja, CIHEAM Zaragoza • Raúl Langa, Government of Aragon • Belén Martínez, Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) • Mohamed El Hady Sidatt, FAO Sub-Regional Office for North Africa.
9:50 - 10:20	**Opening Keynote Speech I** **Title:** *The current phytosanitary landscape in the Mediterranean region.* **Speaker**: Mohamed El Hady Sidatt, FAO.
10:20 - 10:50	**Opening Keynote Speech II** **Title:** *Euro-Mediterranean cooperation as a tool for strengthening plant health systems.* **Speaker**: Camille Picard, European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO). [online]
10:50 - 11:00	**Discussion** **Moderator:** Joaquín Balduque, CIHEAM Zaragoza.
11:00 - 11:30	*Mediterranean breakfast*
11:30 - 12:00	**Technical Session I** **Title:** *Emerging pests and diseases of concern in the Mediterranean basin.* **Speaker**: Mohamed Habib Ben Jamaa, Near East and North Africa Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO).
12:00 - 12:30	**Technical Session II** **Title:** *Diagnostics, reference laboratories, and early detection capacity.* **Speaker**: Irene Suárez Fernández, Spanish National Laboratory for Plant Health and Hygiene (LNSVH).
12:30- 13:30	**Expert Panel - Technical challenges** **Theme:** *Surveillance, diagnostics and response: where are the main technical gaps?* **Moderator:** Irene Suárez Fernández, LNSVH Spain. **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** **Title:** *Emerging phytosanitary risks in a changing world: Lessons from Xylella fastidiosa in the Balearic Islands.* **Speaker**: Diego Olmo García, Official Plant Health Laboratory of the Balearic Islands (LOSVIB)
15:30 - 16:00	**Technical Session IV** **Title:** *National and regional surveillance systems: lessons learned and operational needs.* **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** **Theme:** *Concrete opportunities and next steps for Mediterranean collaboration.* **Moderator:** Alun Jones, CIHEAM Zaragoza. **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** 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.