Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

CIHEAM ZARAGOZA

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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** **Speakers:** Raúl Compés, 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** **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:** *To be confirmed*
10:50 - 11:00	**Discussion** **Moderator:** Joaquín Balduque, CIHEAM Zaragoza.
11:00 - 11:30	*Coffee break*
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 • EPPO • Mohamed Habib Ben Jamaa, NEPPO • NFP Plant Health Service, Spain • Hicham Saoud, National Office of Food Safety ONSSA Morocco.
13:30 - 15:00	*Lunch break*
15:00 - 15:30	**Technical Session III** **Title:** *Climate change, trade, and the changing dynamics of phytosanitary risk* **Speaker:** *To be confirmed*
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:** 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.