



The farmers of the world will feed you all if [...] we win the fight on five key issues: training new farmers; widespread, fair and sustainable human development; productive and sustainable agricultural growth; globalisation adapted to human needs; a civilized world

Louis Malassis



Exhibition march, 28-31, 2010 Le Corum, Montpellier

... Showing how research can meet the major agricultural, food and environmental challenges thanks to a broad diversity of Mediterranean partnerships ...

The Mediterranean Basin stretches from the Iberian peninsula and the Maghreb to the Near East. The cradle of great civilizations that have marked human history, with its rich and exceptional natural, historical and cultural heritage, it is also one of the most vulnerable regions in the world. Its biodiversity is threatened and it is endangered by soil erosion, pollutant emissions, natural disasters, the impact of climate change and unstable agricultural practices.

The Mediterranean countries must join forces and develop a shared vision for the future in order to preserve this heritage and to allow the poorest populations to escape from precariousness. A long history of exchange and cooperation has, over the centuries, contributed to scientific progress. More recently, cooperation made it possible for these countries to achieve successes in confronting challenges of nature and society, such as the irrigation of arid zones and the control of zoonoses linked to climate change.

OBJECTIVE

Organized as part of the 1st Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development (GCARD¹), mundiamediterranea illustrates how the research sector can meet the major agricultural, food and environmental challenges thanks to the broad diversity of Mediterranean partnerships.

As a major stake for the future of the Mediterranean, international cooperation must encourage all stakeholders, farmers, agricultural extensionists, scien-

tists and all other economic and political players to pool their experiences to explore possible paths for the future.

PRESENTATION

The exhibition shows how international cooperation can be mobilised through Mediterranean partnerships to protect nature, to reduce vulnerability in agriculture and food insecurity and overcome the historical divisions of peoples. This can use both traditional knowledge and cutting-edge technology to promote joint development based on consistent agricultural, food and environmental policies.

Designed by a broad variety of players from the southern and northern shores, the exhibition shows the many landscapes of the Mediterranean in the form of a collection of images.

Designed to illustrate the cultural plurality and cultural mix in the Mediterranean and to generate visitors' interest thanks to information in several languages (English, French, Spanish and Arabic) and rich iconography, the exhibition enables:

- . discovery, through a selection of projects, of the contribution made by research to:
 - . agricultural, food and environmental development: water, soil, climate change, animal and crop production, food-nutrition-health;
 - . knowledge of biodiversity and its fragility;
 - . the involvement of women in development;
 - . the assessment of environmental risks

and issues related to sustainable development in the Mediterranean, as established by the Association Plan Bleu. (Mediterranean Action Plan - UNEP).

- . visits to many human communities at the heart of the Mediterranean:
- . sharing and communicating by meeting young researchers from around the Mediterranean basin;
- . exploring and learning: projection area (documentaries, slide shows, etc.), documentation and Internet connections;
- . discovering and tasting at a 'Mediterranean café' (with cultural events and activities).

A small seed of ideas is sown in the secret garden of each visitor... for a Mediterranean Basin marked by solidarity and freed from economic, environmental and food insecurity.



« Nothing grows that has not been sown »

Louis Malassis

This exhibition is made possible thanks to collaboration between research and training organizations from the Mediterranean rim, centers of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research, inter-governmental organizations and many other organizations working for agricultural research and development.

CONTACT: Chantal Gimenez, Agropolis International
06 82 01 15 36 - gimenez@agropolis.fr

1. The Global Conference on Agricultural Research for Development - Bringing together all the players involved in agricultural research for development, the conference is aimed at reforming the world research system by better coordination between Southern and Northern research centres and the involvement of all the stakeholders - <http://www.egfar.org/egfar/website/gcard>
2. Le Plan Bleu est un Centre d'Activités Régionales du Plan d'Action pour la Méditerranée (PAM) placé sous l'égide du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement - <http://www.planbleu.org/>

