

GID's contribution at the COP 28
Workshop « Agroforestry sector in the Euro-Mediterranean »
December 9, 2023 / from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

2:10 p.m.-2:45 p.m.: Latest developments and Knowledge applicable to agroforestry

Contribution of 2 speakers for 8 minutes:

Michèle Gendreau-Massaloux, and **Jacques Brulhet**, Vice-presidents of the GID.

Title:

What are the mutual benefits of cooperation for both the GID and the CIHEAM in regards to Mediterranean and European countries for solving forest ecosystems, agroforestry and environment crisis in the area?

By Michèle Gendreau-Massaloux:

Founded 15 years ago, the Inter-academic Group for Development (GID) is an international association that now unites nearly 30 academies from various countries around the Mediterranean, including France and several academies in sub-Saharan Africa. It forms a unique network of scientists across diverse fields, such as agriculture, science, technology, medicine, human and social sciences. The GID, an independent institution, aims to enhance understanding of the region's main issues, the essential needs of the people, and potential solutions.

Every two years, the GID organizes an international conference on a crucial issue, known as Parmenides. These symposiums contribute to proposals and resolutions sent to public and private decision-makers at national and local levels.

We recognize the CIHEAM, comprising 13 independent states with four Institutes based in Bari (Italy), Chania (Crete), Montpellier (France), and Zaragoza (Spain), as a major actor and partner.

Since 2019, we have jointly organized conferences on common issues, leveraging the CIHEAM's resources and the Academicians of the GID's expertise in evaluation, scientific innovation, and new technical skills.

The first common conference, held in Bari on October 19-21, focused on watersheds. Its recommendations were conveyed to the World Water Forum in Dakar in 2022.

The second conference, held in Chania from October 24 to 26, addressed trees and forests confronting global climate change. It explored how Mediterranean countries can lead in adapting forests and their management, considering users and farmers. Our approach presented forest preservation as a tool for ensuring food security and emphasized the vital role of the human-tree connection in the physical and mental health of populations, drawing on local customs, traditions, and symbolic meanings attached to the forest.



Cooperation was the focal point of this conference. Speakers advocated for increased exchanges and knowledge-sharing across disciplines to strengthen cooperation programs. To enhance analysis and cooperation, we agreed to support databases and standardize data for universal use.

Encouraging young people to work in the agroforestry sector and enhancing their employability were recommended. Improving the legal framework by integrating forestry into environmental issues was also advised.

Our collaborative efforts encompassing research, teaching, land development, and new technologies incur costs, necessitating financing. Establishing risk mitigation mechanisms in public policies could diversify funding sources. Market opportunities linked to the transformation of forest management, supporting products with high added value like olive, almond, argan, and carob, were underscored.

In our vision, widespread communication should evolve into a continual dialogue among stakeholders and populations. Stakeholder cooperation and transformative practices could be facilitated by new institutional frameworks and the commitment of the conference of the parties to United Nations conventions on climate, biodiversity, and the fight against desertification.

By Jacques Brulhet:

I align perfectly with the conclusions and recommendations presented by Michèle Gendreau-Massaloux in our recent symposium held at CIHEAM in Chania, Greece, a few weeks ago. I contribute to this perspective with ongoing discussions within GID and the Académie d'Agriculture de France on the development of agroforestry, emphasizing technical and general economic aspects of the Mediterranean agroforestry sector.

Mediterranean trees and forests are directly impacted by climate change, necessitating coordination and alignment of any new public policy with the extensive research conducted by specialist institutes. This should also integrate remarkable local initiatives emerging in various regions. We share the view that prioritizing training for young people and informing the general public are essential.

Preserving our forests and planting trees are vital tools for adapting Mediterranean ecosystems to climate change. It's crucial to emphasize that in forestry and agroforestry, success goes beyond merely planting trees; ensuring their growth requires prolonged and costly protection and monitoring.

How can we finance these actions critical for ecological transition and make agroforestry economically viable and sustainable? Specific, innovative, and adapted measures are necessary:

- France has established a National Pact for hedgerows and agroforestry, providing subsidies to farms engaging in tree or hedgerow planting. However, success hinges on monetizing the ecosystem services offered by these plantations, such as carbon sequestration, water retention, or biodiversity protection. Addressing this ecological remuneration is a significant challenge, requiring further research on carbon sequestration quantities by different tree species.

- Agroforestry must demonstrate additional sources of profit, considering factors like greater resilience to climate change in Mediterranean agroforestry systems, farm-integrated trees and shrubs as a source of animal feed,

harvesting fruit trees or medicinal plants, and potential profit from a special label for agroforestry products, given increasing consumer interest in ecological transition.

A crucial point for us is **feedback**:

At our GID/CIHEAM symposium in Chania, we compared the attempted Green Dam in Algeria with the current Green Wall project in the Sahel—both aimed at limiting desertification in Africa with trees and shrubs playing a major role. While results vary, in Senegal, Burkina Faso, and southern Chad, we observe the establishment of a veritable African "bocage," embodying agroforestry excellence and reminiscent of the ancestral bocage in Normandy.

