



Antalya / Türkiye

Institut Agronomique Méditerranéen
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Uluslararası Seminer

Séminaire International

Akdeniz Ülkelerinde Yöresel Ürünler, Coğrafi İşaretler ve
Sürdürülebilir Yerel Kalkınma

Les Produits de Terroir, les Indications Géographiques et
le Développement Local Durable des Pays
Méditerranéens

24-26 Nisan 2008 - Antalya / Türkiye

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Antalya Declaration

on

Geographical Indications Regarding Mediterranean Food Products and Local Development

On the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the foundation of the Faculty of Economics and Public Administration of the University of Akdeniz and with a view to extending research projects and established networks for international cooperation, the University of Akdeniz and the CIHEAM-IAMM organized an International Seminar on "Local Agriculture, Sustainable Development and the Protection of Geographical Indications in the Countries of the Mediterranean", which took place on 24-26th April, 2008 in Antalya, Turkey. The Seminar brought together over one hundred participants from more than ten Mediterranean countries of Europe and North Africa as well as international, governmental and non-governmental organizations:

Recognizing the key role that agriculture and food production play in a globalized world, the Ministers of Agriculture of the countries belonging to CIHEAM at their Seventh Meeting in Saragossa, Spain on 4th February 2008, with the aim of promoting the sustainable agriculture recommended strengthening cooperation between the various stakeholders involved in the production of quality foodstuffs in the Mediterranean Basin;

Recognizing that the agricultural producers of the Mediterranean Basin are confronting complex global challenges including demographic change; climate change; and increasing prices for basic agricultural commodities; and considering the preference of consumers for foods that provide clear and succinct information concerning product origin;

Recognizing that the countries of the Mediterranean Basin, although rich in biodiversity, agricultural know-how and culinary history, are today under increasing pressure to address the significant socio-economic issues arising from the linkage between climate change, environmental degradation and food security;

Emphasizing that the legal protection of geographical indications is a strategy that has the potential to provide local producers of the Mediterranean Basin with a decided competitive advantage, to the extent that geographical indications enable the promotion of local agricultural products; support localized chains of distribution; and bring considerable benefits to the local rural economy;

Recognizing that the production, manufacture and distribution of agricultural products and foodstuffs play an important role in the sustainable economic development of the Mediterranean Basin, the Seminar Participants believe that, within the framework of Euro-Mediterranean assistance, strengthened cooperation should seek to raise the identity and status of quality agricultural and food products.

Consequently, with the aim of promoting the sustainable development of rural economies, they propose a combined action plan founded upon the creation of a collective sign to designate the authentic agricultural and food products of the Mediterranean Basin.

Such a strategy would have the advantage of promoting:

- The link between the quality or characteristics of the agricultural product or foodstuff and the geographical origin of the Mediterranean Basin that consumers are able to readily identify.
- The diversification of agricultural production so as to improve the incomes of farmers and achieve a better balance between supply and demand on the markets for rural communities.
- The preservation and transmission of the culinary heritage of the Mediterranean Basin.
- The protection of the environment and its biodiversity.
- The cooperative management of rural economies by local stakeholders.

In light of the advantages identified, a special effort should be devoted to

- Encourage the promotion and diversification of quality agricultural goods and services in accordance with their geographical origin.
- The support and mobilization of local farmers and associated commercial networks.
- The establishment of relevant innovative research programmes and the creation of associated international research networks.
- Combined action by governmental and non-governmental organizations to promote the concept of "Quality Agricultural and Food Products of the Mediterranean Basin" with a view to making this category of products and the guarantees attached to them better known to consumers.