

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Entered into by and between the  
**INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ADVANCED  
MEDITERRANEAN AGRONOMIC STUDIES - MEDITERRANEAN  
AGRONOMIC INSTITUTE OF ZARAGOZA**



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(Hereinafter referred to as “CIHEAM Zaragoza”)

Herein represented by **Dr Raúl Compés López**  
In his capacity as **Director of CIHEAM Zaragoza**

and

**AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA**



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(Hereinafter referred to as “AUT”)

Herein represented by **Prof. Dr Fatbardh Sallaku**  
In his capacity as **Rector of Agricultural University of Tirana (AUT)**

(Hereinafter referred to as “the Partner”)

Hereinafter jointly referred to as the “Parties”

**THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (“MOU”)** is made this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June 2025

**BETWEEN**

**Dr. Raúl Compés López, Director and legal representative of the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza** (hereinafter referred to as CIHEAM Zaragoza), located at Av. Montañana 1005, 50059 Zaragoza, and part of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), acting on its behalf by virtue of Decision 155 CA (24) 2, adopted by electronic consultation held from 25 to 30 April 2024, through which the CIHEAM Governing Board confirmed his appointment, and exercising the powers conferred upon him by its statutes.

**Dr. Fatbardh Sallaku, Rector of the Agricultural University of Tirana (AUT)**, located at rr. Pajsi Vodica, Kodër Kamëz Tiranë, Shqipëri, duly authorized to act on behalf of the institution.

**ARTICLE 1 - BACKGROUND**

**WHEREAS** CIHEAM Zaragoza is one of the four Institutes of the International Centre for Advanced Agronomic Mediterranean Studies (CIHEAM), together with Bari in Italy, Montpellier in France, and Chania in Greece.

Established in 1969, CIHEAM Zaragoza offers quality and excellence in training and promotes international cooperation through research project management.

CIHEAM Zaragoza has five fields of expertise, which include: ‘Sustainable Food and Agriculture Systems’, ‘Fisheries and Aquaculture’, ‘Water, Soil and Ecosystems’, ‘Forestry Management’ and ‘Territorial & Inclusive Development’.

CIHEAM Zaragoza has become consolidated as a point of reference for specialised international training in the agro-food sector.

Among its assets, CIHEAM Zaragoza has an International Institute located on the Campus of Aula Dei, which is one of the largest and prestigious agricultural science complexes in Spain, strengthening synergies between the scientific community, firms, and students.

**WHEREAS** the Agricultural University of Tirana (AUT), founded in 1951, is the main centre for education and research in agriculture, environment and food, forestry, agricultural economics and veterinary in Albania.

**CONSIDERING** that Albania is a member of CIHEAM since 1992.

**CONSIDERING** that the parties are willing to expand and strengthen scientific and technical co-operation between the two institutions and their countries in areas of mutual interest in scientific research, training and international cooperation projects.

**CONSIDERING** the common interest to develop institutional capacity-building initiatives in the fields of technical cooperation to support sustainable development, protection of the environment, mitigation of climate change effects, technical and post academic training, public-private partnerships, and applied research at national and international level.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the parties have agreed on the following:

## **ARTICLE 2 – OBJECTIVES AND AREAS OF COLLABORATION**

This MoU will provide a framework within which the two Parties shall develop and undertake collaborative research, training and international cooperation activities and shall undertake specific initiatives and projects, subject to their prior mutual consent and to their respective policies and procedures. In particular, the Parties will collaborate in the following identified areas:

- **Projects for cooperation and collaborative research:** CIHEAM Zaragoza and AUT shall strengthen their institutional collaboration in order to identify programmes and funding opportunities in the framework of European research and territorial cooperation programmes, to promote project ideas and collaborate to develop cooperation and research activities in the framework of calls for proposals or bilateral donor funding negotiations.
- **Capacity building:** CIHEAM Zaragoza and AUT will collaborate in organizing capacity development initiatives targeting professionals, researchers and stakeholders in areas such as agri-business, food security, climate change adaptation, and rural development. The Parties will strengthen institutional capacities through support in curriculum development, pedagogical innovation, and quality assurance.
- **Technical cooperation:** CIHEAM Zaragoza and AUT will collaborate in facilitating triangular cooperation and partnerships with other Mediterranean and European institutions, fostering integration and collaboration among key partner countries.
- Enhancing knowledge dissemination, institutional networking and awareness-raising through the **organisation of joint conferences and workshops** attended by experts, staff, decision-makers and other stakeholders from both Parties.
- **Exchange of experts and officials** between both Parties through informal or official visits for research and cooperation purposes, bearing in mind that, in all cases, such exchange will comply with the internal regulations of each institution and will be examined by each Party on an individual basis.

### **ARTICLE 3 – IMPLEMENTATION**

The collaboration is aimed at seeking new funding opportunities that might be attracted by the collaborative venture. The activities will mainly be focused on the complementary areas of expertise of the Parties and jointly implemented in the framework of international cooperation actions and research activities. Agreement will then be defined once projects are jointly launched or specific technical assistance is requested from CIHEAM Zaragoza by AUT.

### **ARTICLE 4 – OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES**

The two Parties agree to:

- maintain a good level of communication and provide information in a timely manner.
- fulfil their respective responsibilities for the joint initiatives outlined in this Agreement.
- secure or request external sources of funding at national or international level where applicable.

### **ARTICLE 5 – FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Both Parties agree that all financial agreements necessary to implement this MoU must be negotiated and will depend upon the availability of funds. Neither institution shall have any financial obligation to the other institution based on this Agreement.

### **ARTICLE 6 – CONFIDENTIALITY**

Each Party shall treat all documents, information, or any other data exchanged, received or supplied by the other Party for the implementation of this MoU, or any other agreements made under the MoU, as confidential unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Parties. Personal data will also be considered strictly confidential and managed accordingly.

The Parties agree that the provisions of this Article shall continue to be binding between the Parties notwithstanding the termination of this MoU.

The provisions of this Article shall not prejudice the respective laws, regulations, and policies of the Parties.

### **ARTICLE 7 – INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

All intellectual property rights owned by one Party and used for the implementation of this MoU shall remain property of that Party.

All intellectual property rights that arise under the execution of this MoU, namely due to scientific discoveries or innovations, shall be set out in a specific arrangement on this matter.

### **ARTICLE 8 – PUBLICATION OF RESULTS**

Results of cooperative research, where appropriate, shall be published jointly or separately and upon mutual agreement only. Either Party publishing separately shall give credit to the other

institution's contribution but will remain responsible solely for conclusions and interpretations.

#### **ARTICLE 9 – DISPUTE SETTLEMENT**

Any dispute arising from the interpretation, application or implementation of this MoU shall be settled amicably through consultations and negotiations between the Parties at internal level.

#### **ARTICLE 10 – AMENDMENTS**

This MoU may be amended at any time upon mutual written consent of the Parties.

Any change or amendment to this MoU shall enter into force and be considered an integral part of it according to the procedures mentioned in Article 11.

#### **ARTICLE 11 – ENTRY INTO FORCE, DURATION AND TERMINATION**

This MoU shall enter into force on the date of signature of the Parties. It shall remain in force for the duration of three (3) years with the understanding that either Party may terminate it with three months' notice in writing unless an earlier termination is mutually agreed upon. In this case, persons still engaged in activities begun before such notice was given, shall retain all rights conferred under this Memorandum until the activity in question has ended.

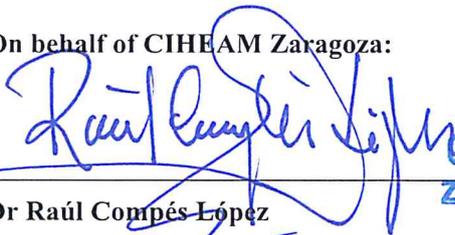
Revisions or modifications shall be proposed at any time by either Party, and they shall be effective upon the latest signature of the written agreement by both Parties concerned.

Unless agreed otherwise by the Parties, the termination of this MoU shall not affect the validity and duration of any ongoing arrangements, programmes or projects made under the MoU until the completion of such arrangement/programme or project.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned Parties whose names appear on this and the four preceding pages, hereby execute this MoU:

Signed in Tirana on 23rd June 2025.

On behalf of CIHEAM Zaragoza:

  
  
**Dr Raúl Compés López**  
Director of CIHEAM Zaragoza

On behalf of Agricultural University of Tirana:

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**Prof. Dr Fatbardh Sallaku**

