INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT TO ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

THE MOAN NETWORK

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• Organic agriculture in the last years has continuously attracted much interest and consent, and by now it involves quite all the Mediterranean countries.

• OA may represent an important opportunity for the development of the agricultural, social and economic sectors of these countries.

• Moreover, OA should be regarded as a potential tool for the strengthening of the Euro-Med relationships (Euromed conference on Agriculture, Venice 2003).
Problem statement

Despite its development, the evolution of the organic sector in the Med region is constrained by some critical points:

- **Information-training deficiency**
  - Poor technical-scientific knowledge
  - Lack of statistics and unreliability of data

- **Institutional deficiency**
  - Problems of equivalence
  - Lack and inadequacy of support policy

- **Degradation of the natural resources**

- **Socio-economic and cultural desertification**
Hypothesis

Would exchange and networking initiatives create profitable collaboration among institutions leading to furthering OA in its process of expansion and popularisation?

This is what MAIB has set up as main objective in 1996.
CIHEAM - PARIS
International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies

SARAGOZA (SPAIN)
MONTPELLIER (FRANCE)
BARI (ITALY)
CHANIA (GREECE)
History and evolution

1999 MOAN FOUNDATION

MAIB launched a network of experts on Mediterranean Organic Agriculture (MOAN) with the objective of furthering organic agriculture in the CIHEAM member states (13 countries) through the activities of promotion, training, research and data collection.

2006 MOAN NEW ORGANIZATION

MOAN became an institutional Network and was enlarged with the aim to gather 24 Euro-Mediterranean countries. Country representatives are Decision makers of the Ministries of agriculture dealing with organic agriculture issues.
• 21 member countries (+ 3 pending)
• Institutional partners
• Steering committee

EU countries
EU candidate and potential candidate countries
Mashrek

Maghreb
Objectives

1. Creating working partnerships to share common problems and strategies for the development of organic agriculture in the Mediterranean.

2. Encouraging exchange and cooperation among ministries and institutions concerned with organic agriculture in the Mediterranean.

3. Popularising the rationale of organic agriculture and its multifaceted impacts in the Mediterranean.
Priority areas

1. International promotion of Mediterranean organic agriculture
2. Organic statistics collection and dissemination
3. Regulatory and Policy framework development
4. Institutional Capacity Building
5. Training and research in organic agriculture
Activities

1. Organisation of a thematic annual meeting in one of the network countries

2. Support for the creation of national sub-networks

3. Organisation of country-specific workshops and international conferences

4. Publication of scientific works and periodical reports on the state-of-the-art of O.A. in the region

5. Creation and management of a website with special sections on country profiles and events (http://moan.iamb.it)
The Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (IAMB), www.iamb.it, Italian offshoot of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), an international inter-governmental organisation established in 1962 under the patronage of the OECD and the Council of Europe, has always directed its efforts to the sustainable development of rural areas in the Mediterranean countries by providing support to the governments. In 1996, it undertook a new range of activities related to organic agriculture and became a landmark for the organic sector by providing training, research and experimentation to co-operate to the development of the Mediterranean basin.

In 1999, IAMB launched a network of experts on Mediterranean Organic Agriculture (MOAN) with the objective of further developing organic agriculture in the Mediterranean countries through activities of promotion, training, research and data collection on the state-of-the-art of organic agriculture in the Mediterranean basin. Following the recommendations of the Euro-Med conference of Venice, a new organization of MOAN is being planned that foresees the active participation of the Ministry of Agriculture.
June 20 – 22, 2007, Izmir – Turkey

Organic data collection, analysis and dissemination in the Mediterranean: methodological issues and best practices
Conference on Government Support Policies for Organic Agriculture

June 16-20, 2008
Modena, Italy
May 10-14, 2009
Madrid, Spain

Organic agriculture and local identities: potential and challenges for policy and market development
Conclusions and future perspectives

MOAN is a tool for decision makers to exchange information and good practices related to organic agriculture, to share common strategies for its further development in the Mediterranean area and to valorise its potential and identity in the global debate.
MOAN as a tool for:

- Interesting platform for dialogue and cooperation
- Exchanging and networking initiative
- Strengthening the Euro-Mediterranean relationships
- Know-how transfer
- Institutional capacity building
- Developing of a Mediterranean identity
- Setting up action plans and support policies
- Harmonizing international rules and norms
- Economic development
Thank you

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