



**Number 33**

## **Invasive Species New emerging issue and risks**

To be published in June 2015

# **Call for Proposals**

March 2015

## About CIHEAM

Founded in 1962, the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) is an intergovernmental organisation composed of thirteen member states (Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey).

The CIHEAM is at the service of its member states to promote multilateral cooperation in the Mediterranean in the fields of agriculture, food, fishery, and rural territories, aiming to respond to the needs of the States. The CIHEAM works for the Mediterranean and therefore with Mediterranean populations. Providing concrete solutions, sharing experiences and avoiding the waste of knowledge are among the main objectives of each one of its actions. The CIHEAM pursues this cooperation mission through specialised training, networked research, scientific diplomacy and political partnership. Thanks to its activities, the CIHEAM therefore contributes to the elaboration of a global, structural and engaging vision for development in the Mediterranean.

170 permanent agents and hundreds of consultants regularly work within the 5 headquarters of the Organisation: the 4 Mediterranean agronomic institutes (MAI) based in Bari (Italy), Chania (Greece), Montpellier (France), and Zaragoza (Spain); the General Secretariat is located in Paris (France).

## The Watch Letter

This Quarterly Letter has been published since 2007 and is devoted to major topics in Mediterranean Agriculture, Food and Environment. While enabling the CIHEAM to gain a widespread recognition, it circulates analyses aimed at a heterogeneous public (policymakers, researchers, journalists, etc.) on emerging agricultural and food issues. The objective of the Watch Letter is to provide brief analyses which will fuel both the discussion on the Mediterranean and the broader global debate on food and agriculture.

The General Secretariat of Paris is responsible for the direction and the management of this bilingual publication (English and French), also available in Arabic. Constant efforts are made to ensure a wide variety of contributor profiles in both geographic and professional terms. In the 32 issues published so far, we have published 216 articles involving more than 346 authors.

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## Timetable

### **January 2015**

Announcement and call for proposals

### **By the end March 2015**

Deadline for the submission of a contribution

### **April - May 2015**

Reception of the articles and edition

### **June 2015**

Publication of the Watch Letter 33

## Technical Details for the articles

### **Languages**

English or French

### **Length**

2000-2500 Words (or 12,500 - 15,000 Characters)

### **Signature**

Indicate your position-title and/or the institution you want to appear in the article

### **Title and Bibliography**

Each article should have a clear title and a brief bibliography/webography (not more than 4-5 references)

### **Delivery**

The paper must be sent via electronic mail at abis@ciheam.org.  
A recent and good picture of the author(s) must be send (PNG or JPEG format)

## Watch Letter 33 - Background

Against a background of ever more intensive trade links, the ever-growing mobility of global populations and extreme climate change, ecosystems and crops are becoming ever more fragile, especially thanks to so-called invasive (or invading) species. Many of them successfully adapt to the places they conquer and can modify ecosystems to a considerable extent. In consequence, they are becoming a growing problem for countries, as they affect key sectors of their economies and present a series of emerging risks. This is especially true of the countries of Southern Europe, North Africa and the Middle East.

In 1992, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was already warning of the damage and risks to ecosystems, habitats and plant and animal species represented by these invasive alien species. The CBD considers invasive alien species to be those whose introduction or spread outside their natural habitat endangers biological diversity. A species is said to be invasive or invading when, establishing and reproducing itself in a geographical area to which it is not native, it becomes a disturbance agent and damages biological diversity.

The CIHEAM Watch Letter No. 33 proposes to examine the emerging challenges and risks related to invasive species, especially for agriculture, food security and the environment. It seeks to identify approaches to enhance and benefit from knowledge of relevance to this phenomenon. It focuses on the resources used and actions taken to strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation in the frame work of an optimal approach involving adaptation and prevention.

Included among the many problems which this issue seeks to address are the following:

- How can we reconcile combating invasive species and protection of the environment?
- Why are these invasive species a source of concern to Mediterranean countries at the present time?
- What projects are already being implemented to tackle the problems caused by invasive species? What innovative initiatives have there been in this field?
- What is the impact of invasive species on health, the environment and the economy (agriculture, fishing, fruit-growing, forestry...)?
- How is food security endangered by the increase in the number of invasive species?
- How can we combat these species effectively? What prevention strategies could we develop to deal with the problems they cause?

These questions are ideas for reflection, opening the way to other suggestions that could come from experts and others involved in the Mediterranean Region. In particular, they are an invitation to suggest analyses related to one of the immediate concerns, the *Xylella fastidiosa* which is affecting olive trees in the Mediterranean

## Watch Letter 33 - Problématique générale

Dans un contexte marqué par l'intensification des échanges commerciaux, l'accélération de la mobilité des populations mondiales, et des changements climatiques extrêmes, les écosystèmes et cultures sont de plus en plus fragilisés, notamment via les espèces dites invasives ou envahissantes. Beaucoup de celles-ci arrivent à s'adapter aux espaces qu'elles conquièrent et peuvent en modifier considérablement les écosystèmes. Par conséquent, elles deviennent un problème croissant pour les pays car elles affectent des secteurs clés de leur économie et présentent une série de risques émergents. C'est notamment le cas pour les pays d'Europe du Sud, d'Afrique du Nord et du Moyen-Orient.

En 1992, la « Convention sur la diversité biologique » (CDB), alertait déjà sur les nuisances et risques que représentent les espèces exotiques envahissantes pour les écosystèmes, les habitats ou les espèces végétales et animales. La CDB considère les « *espèces exotiques envahissantes (EEE)* » comme des espèces dont l'introduction et/ou la dissémination en dehors de leurs habitats naturels menacent la diversité biologique. Une espèce est dite invasive ou envahissante lorsque, s'étant établie et se reproduisant naturellement dans un domaine géographique dont elle n'est pas originaire, elle devient un agent de perturbation et nuit à la diversité biologique.

Cette lettre de veille n°33 du CIHEAM propose de faire le point sur les enjeux et risques émergents liés aux espèces invasives notamment pour l'agriculture, la sécurité alimentaire et l'environnement. Elle vise à dégager des pistes permettant l'amélioration et la valorisation des connaissances propres à ce phénomène. Elle met l'accent sur les moyens et les actions mis en œuvre pour renforcer la coopération bilatérale, régionale et internationale dans le cadre d'une meilleure approche d'adaptation et de prévention.

Parmi les différentes problématiques que ce numéro souhaite traiter figurent les considérations suivantes :

- Comment concilier lutte contre ces espèces invasives et protection de l'environnement ?
- Pourquoi ces espèces invasives sont-elles une source de préoccupation aujourd'hui pour les pays méditerranéens ?
- Quels sont les projets déjà à l'œuvre pour faire face aux problèmes posés par les espèces invasives ? Quelles sont les initiatives innovantes dans ce domaine ?
- Quelles sont les impacts des espèces invasives sur la santé, l'environnement et l'économie (agriculture, pêche, cultures fruitières, sylviculture...) ?
- En quoi la sécurité alimentaire est-elle mise en péril à la fois par l'augmentation du nombre d'espèces invasives ?
- Comment lutter efficacement contre ces espèces ? Quelles seraient les stratégies de prévention à élaborer face aux problèmes générés par ces espèces ?

Ces questions sont des propositions de réflexions ouvertes à d'autres suggestions qui seront faites par des acteurs et des experts de la région méditerranéenne en invitant notamment à suggérer des analyses liées à l'une des préoccupations du moment à savoir la *Xylella fastidiosa* qui touchent les oliviers de la Méditerranée

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31. The Mediterranean Sea: Fisheries and beyond
32. Innovative indicators and Food Security in the Mediterranean (*will be released April 2015*)

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The Mediterranean Sea: Fisheries and Beyond

