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TIRANA STUDY DAY. During the seminar promoted by the Italian Universities of Viterbo and Siena together with IMC and IAMB last October, Albania's minister of Agriculture Gjana confirmed

ALBANIA IN THE MED NETWORK

L'Albanie est intéressée par une majeure coopération entre les agricultures de la Méditerranée, elle en saisit les avantages potentiels (déjà expérimentés, en partie, dans le réseau CIHEAM) mais elle est aussi prête à y contribuer. Comme l'a dit le ministre de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation Jemin Gjana le 6 octobre à Tirana en participant à la rencontre des études sur la qualité et la sécurité alimentaire promue par le Consortium RIFOSAL à la quelle participent les universités italiennes de Viterbo et de Sienne et l'Institut Méditerranéen de Certification IMC de Senigallia. Et aussi, comme l'a rappelé le ministre Gjana, les législateurs albanais ont accompli d'importants pas pour adapter les règles de la qualité alimentaire aux standards internationaux, en s'alignant particulièrement au cadre normatif de l'Union Européenne. Une Autorité Nationale pour la Sécurité Alimentaire a été créée. Les présences lors de la rencontre de la Fédération Internationale des Producteurs Agricoles étaient significatives, la FIPA est représentée par Hiba El Dahar, une experte libanaise qui a la fonction de coordonnatrice régionale FIPA pour la Méditerranée, et d'IAM (Institut Agronomique Méditerranéen) de Bari, représenté par le directeur Cosimo Lacirignola, et de CIHEAM de Paris, représenté par le secrétaire général Bertrand Hervieu. Lacirignola a rappelé les 15

Albania is interested in greater cooperation between Mediterranean agricultural systems and understands the potential advantages (partly already experienced within the ambit of the CIHEAM network), but is also ready to make its own contribution.



Jemin Gjana, minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer's Protection of Albania. He's a strong supporter of a policy of cooperation in the Mediterranean

Such was the message of minister of Agriculture and Food, Jemin Gjana, as he participated at the Study Day on food quality and safety promoted by the Consortium RIFOSAL, on 6th October in Tirana, at which the Italian Universities of Viterbo and Siena and the Mediterranean Institution of Certification IMC of Senigallia participated. Albania is a small Country of mountains, hills and sea, with three and a half million inhabitants, which has crossed the threshold from its extremely difficult history and has been on the road of democracy and development for several years now.

Agriculture is crucially important, employing 60% of the workforce and accounting for almost a third of the gross national product.

Although the Albanian economy is also developing in the industrial sector (textiles and footwear) infrastructures and energy, an effective combination between typical agricultural products and valorisation of tourism in the ter-

ritory could be the turning point for development.

As minister Gjana stated, Albanian legislators have taken important steps to bring food quality norms up to international standards, aligning them, in particular, with the normative framework of the European Union.

A National Food Safety Authority has been created. Parallel to these initiatives, Albanian agriculture intends to play a role and obtain visibility within the ambit of the Mediterranean diet, through its typical products.

Typical agricultural production at the moment is quantitatively insufficient to ensure success on the international market, but could be an essential element in carrying the battle of valorisation of the territory and finding points of distribution in tourist-oriented restoration, as well as in the developing large-scale distribution system.

In fact, several hypermarkets are opening and an Italian group, Conad, has already opened three centres and is



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ans d'activité développée d'IAM en Albanie dans les secteurs de la formation, de la recherche et de la coopération et les étroits rapports entamés entre l'Albanie et la Région de Puglie.



Albania está interesada en una mayor cooperación entre las agriculturas mediterránea, entiendo a lo mejor sus potenciales ventajas (en parte ya experimentadas en la red CI-HEAM), pero también está preparada a dar su propia contribución. Esta lo afirmó el Sr. ministro Jemin Gjana, titular de Agricultura y Alimentación, el pasado 6 de octubre

the interest of his Country to enter the Med cooperation, making all efforts to guarantee food quality and safety in agro-food products. Agriculture already accounts for a third of GDP

opening another five in different cities across the Country.

The meeting of October 6th was an interesting leg of the journey on the road of opening up Albanian agriculture to international cooperation.

In this connection, the presence at the meeting of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), represented by Hiba El Dahar, a Lebanese expert acting as IFAP's Regional Coordinator for the Mediterranean, the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute (IAM) of Bari, represented by Director Cosimo Lacirignola and the CI-HEAM of Paris, represented by Secretary General Bertrand Hervieu, was quite meaningful.

Lacirignola recalled the fifteen years of activity developed by the IAM in Albania, in the sectors of training, research

and cooperation, which - said Lacirignola - are the three instruments of excellence.

The model of food production is the Mediterranean diet, "which is also a cultural model" and must in turn be supported by three elements: identity, quality and safety.

Lacirignola also mentioned the close relations entertained between Albania and the Apulian Regional Administration, in hopes that the Apulian agricultural and food system may be taken as a model for the development of Albania, considering the characteristics of a territory that has strong potential for typical quality crops and organic products, which several hundred small farms are already endeavouring to produce.

The fine collaboration that has begun between Albanian and Italian re-

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en Tirana, durante el encuentro de estudios sobre calidad y seguridad alimenticias, promovido por el consorcio RIFOSAL, y al que participan las universidades italiana de Viterbo y Siena, y el instituto mediterráneo de certificación IMC de Senigalia. Como ha subrayado el ministro Gjana, los legisladores albaneses han realizado pasos importantes para adecuar las normas de calidad alimenticia a los estándares internacionales, alineándose en particular al marco normativo de la UE. Ha sido por ende creada una autoridad nacional sobre seguridad alimenticia.

 L'Albania è interessata ad una maggiore cooperazione tra le agricolture del Mediterraneo, ne capisce i potenziali vantaggi (in parte già sperimentati nella rete CIHEAM) ma è pronta anche a dare il proprio contributo. Lo ha detto il ministro Jemin Gjana, titolare dell'Agricoltura e dell'Alimentazione il 6 ottobre a Tirana partecipando all'incontro di studi sulla qualità e sicurezza alimentare promosso dal Consorzio RIFOSAL a cui partecipano le università italiane di Viterbo e di Siena e l'Istituto Mediterraneo di Certificazione IMC di Senigallia. Come ha ricordato il ministro Gjana, i legislatori albanesi hanno compiuto passi importanti per adeguare le norme sulla qualità alimentare agli standard internazionali, allineandosi in particolare al quadro normativo dell'Unione Europea. È stata creata una Autorità Nazionale sulla Sicurezza Alimentare.



From the left above, Maria Pia Ragonieri of RIFOSAL, Cosimo Lacirignola of IAMB, Hiba El Dahr of IFAP, Brunilda Stamo of Albania's Agriculture ministry, Ols Lafa of Albania's Tourism ministry and Remo Ciucciomei, president of IMC

searchers and businessmen (Italy is Albania's foremost commercial partner, in general, followed by Greece) could lead to some extremely interesting results for both parties.

A report on the typical quality agricultural products of Albania was presented by Brunilda Stamo of the ministry of Agriculture.

The evolution of the relationship between typical agriculture and tourism and the possible synergies was illustrated by Ols Lafa of the ministry of Tourism.

Prof. Maria Pia Ragonieri of the Tuscia University of Viterbo explained the activities of the RIFOSAL Consortium, especially the project for days dedicated to Mediterranean Studies (which will soon be held in Cairo and Istanbul).

Prof. Paolo Borghi of RIFOSAL illustrated the European norms on registration of Protected Geographical Indications, while Prof. Agostino Macri of the Higher Institute of Health of Rome spoke of

the aspects of hygiene and safety of typical products.

The role of certifiers was explained by Remo Ciucciomei of the IMC, who dwelt primarily on the need of certifying organisations not only to be involved in guaranteeing the conformity of the products and processes to quality norms, but also in contributing to the efficiency and improvement of processes and therefore to the success of Mediterranean agricultural and food enterprises.

Several cases concerning agricultural cooperatives involved in quality productions were presented in Tirana.

Green Med Journal's impression was positive. By opening up to international cooperation with trust and giving life to a joint venture, Albania qualifies to become a cradle of quality Mediterranean and organic agriculture.

**by GMJ staff
reporting from Tirana**

Significative le presenze all'incontro della Federazione Internazionale dei Produttori Agricoli (FIPA) rappresentata da Hiba El Dahar, un'esperta libanese che funge da coordinatore regionale FIPA per il Medi-

terraneo, dello IAM (Istituto Agronomico Mediterraneo) di Bari, rappresentato dal direttore Cosimo Lacirignola, e del CIHEAM di Parigi, rappresentato dal segretario generale Bertrand Hervieu. Lacirignola

ha ricordato i 15 anni di attività sviluppata dallo IAM in Albania nei settori della formazione, della ricerca e della cooperazione e gli stretti rapporti avviati tra Albania e Regione Puglia.