



**15TH INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF THE FAO-CIHEAM
SUBNETWORK ON MEDITERRANEAN FORAGES AND FODDER
CROPS**



**Ecosystem services and socio-economic benefits
of Mediterranean grasslands**

Orestiada (Greece), 12-14 April 2016

Organised by:

FAO-CIHEAM Inter-regional Cooperative Research and Development Sub-Network on
Mediterranean Forage Resources
Democritus University of Thrace - DUTH (Greece),
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki – AUTH (Greece)
Hellenic Range and Pasture Society - HERPAS (Greece)
Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza - IAMZ/CIHEAM (Spain)

SECOND CIRCULAR

<http://www.iamz.ciheam.org/orestiada2016/>



Background and Objectives of the meeting

Mediterranean grasslands (including rangelands, pastures, meadows, fodder crops) are important resources with an area covering up to 48 per cent of the whole Mediterranean region. Although these ecosystems have traditionally played an important role in the evolution of human societies, and are still the key element in the production of high quality animal products, they have been considered merely as a source for providing feed for domestic ruminants.

Grasslands are essentially providing a range of ecosystem services besides forage production, such as biodiversity conservation, habitat for wildlife, carbon fixation, prevention of erosion and nutrient storage. Despite their ecological, economic and social importance they receive limited scientific and media attention on their conservation merits. This is mainly because they are widely perceived as degraded land.

A major shift in grassland science has to occur, from considering their main function as poor land destined only for extensive livestock keeping, to a much broader concept of managing them towards benefiting all ecosystem services. Sustainable management should be about striking a balance among environmental conservation, livestock production and socio-economic development.



The FAO-CIHEAM Inter-regional Cooperative Research and Development Sub-Network on Mediterranean Forage Resources, together with the Democritus University of Thrace - DUTH (Greece), the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki – AUTH (Greece) and the Hellenic Range and Pasture Society - HERPAS and the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza - IAMZ/CIHEAM (Spain), organises its 15th Meeting titled “Ecosystem services and socio-economic benefits of Mediterranean grasslands”. The Meeting will bring together scientists and specialists from countries of the Mediterranean regions, to present studies and to discuss research strategies and experiences allowing to face current challenges in grassland management.

Venue

The venue of the Meeting will be the Congress Hall of Orestiada city, located close to the city centre. The Meeting venue is in a walkable distance from all the hotels proposed to the Meeting participants.

Orestiada is located in Evros regional unit, Region of Thrace, northeastern Greece. The closest airport (110 km) to Orestiada is the Alexandroupolis airport (<http://www.alxd.gr>), which is connected with several daily flights with Athens International Airport. Hourly buses from the Alexandroupolis airport to Orestiada have stop in front of the airport (ca. 1.5 h trajet). However, a bus shuttle will be provided by the municipality of Orestiada, from Alexandroupolis airport to Orestiada city, for some of the flights. For the organisation of this service, please send your flight information (arrival and departure dates and hours) to Theodoros Manousidis (thmanous@yahoo.gr) until 01 April 2016.

More information about the venue will be available at the Meeting website.





Organising Committee

Apostolos Kyriazopoulos, Democritus University of Thrace
Paraskevi Sklavou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Claudio Porqueddu, CNR-ISPAAM, Italy
Antonio Lopez-Francos, CIHEAM, Spain
Eleni Abraham, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Ioannis Hadjigeorgiou, Agricultural University Athens
Maria Karatasiou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Spyridon Koutroubas, Democritus University of Thrace
Theodoros Manousidis, Democritus University of Thrace
Thomas Papachristou, Forest Research Institute
Zoi Parissi, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Scientific Committee

Alain Peeters, Coordinator FAO-CIHEAM Network on Pastures and Fodder Crops (Belgium)
Claudio Porqueddu, CNR-ISPAAM, Coordinator of the FAO-CIHEAM Sub-Network on Mediterranean Pastures and Fodder Crops (Italy)
Apostolos Kyriazopoulos, Democritus University of Thrace (Greece)
Paraskevi Sklavou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)
Antonio López-Francos, Mediterranean Agronomic Institute Zaragoza (CIHEAM) (Spain)
Zeki Acar, Ondokuz Mayıs University (Turkey)
Serkan Ates, ICARDA (Jordan)
Magali Jouven, Montpellier SupAgro (France)
Zalmen Henkin, Agricultural Research Organization (Israel)
Antonello Franca, CNR-ISPAAM (Italy)
Ali Noutfia, INRAM (Morocco)
Aziza Zoghلامي, INRAT (Tunisia)
Eleni Abraham, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)
Ioannis Hadjigeorgiou, Agricultural University Athens (Greece)
Maria Karatasiou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)
Thomas Papachristou, Forest Research Institute (Greece)
Zoi Parissi, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)
Athanasios Ragkos, Alexander Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki, (Greece)
Georgios Korakis, Democritus University of Thrace (Greece)

Sponsors

Democritus University of Thrace
Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza
Geotechnical chamber of Greece
Geotechnical chamber of Greece – branch of Thrace
Municipality of Orestiada
Regional unit of Evros



Scientific Programme (provisional)

Day 1 - 12 April 2016

08:30 – 09:00 Registration

09:00 – 09:30 Opening ceremony

09:30 – 10:30 Introductory Session

09:30 – 09:50 Greece's grazing/ forage resources for livestock production – *T.G. Papachristou, Forest Research Institute, Greece*

09:50 – 10:00 Overview on grassland and farming systems in Evros Region – *A.P. Kyriazopoulos and T. Manousidis, Democritus University of Thrace, Greece*

10:00 – 10:30 Ecosystem services and socio-economic benefits of Mediterranean grasslands – *E. Varela, CREDA, Spain*

10:30 – 11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00 – 13:30 Session 1. Managing ecosystem services and livestock production in the Mediterranean region

11:00 – 11:30 Guest speaker – *P. D'Ottavio, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Italy*

11:30 – 13:00 Short oral presentations

13:00 – 13:30 Session 1. Discussion and synthesis

13:30 – 15:00 Lunch

15:00 – 18:00 Session 2. Improvement of range, pasture and forage species including alternative uses

15:00 – 15:30 Guest speaker – *P. Nichols, Western Australia Dep. of Agriculture and Food, Australia*

15:30 – 16:00 Short oral presentations

16:00 – 16:30 *Coffee break*

16:30 – 17:30 Short oral presentations

17:30 – 18:00 Session 2. Discussion and synthesis

Day 2 - 13 April 2016

Mid-Meeting technical tour, to visit two contrasted areas in the Evros region: (i) the Dadia-Lefkimi-Soufli Forest National Park (<http://dadia-np.gr/?lang=en>), one of the most important Greek protected areas at national and international scale in terms of floristic and faunistic biodiversity. The landscape mosaic is formed by pine and oak forests, grasslands and fields and is the ideal habitat for birds of prey; and (ii) the semimountainous area of Megalo Dereio, with traditional livestock farming systems (goats mainly) based on grazing at grasslands and woodlands.



Day 3 - 14 April 2016

09:00 – 11:00 Session 3. Socio-economic benefits of sustainable grassland management

09:00 – 09:30 Guest speaker – *M. Louhaichi, ICARDA, Jordan*

09:30 – 10:30 Short oral presentations

10:30 – 11:00 Session 3. Discussion and synthesis

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 14:00 Session 4. Rehabilitation of Mediterranean grasslands

11:30 – 12:00 Guest speaker – *Zalmen Henkin, Agricultural Research Organization, Israel*

12:00 – 13:00 Short oral presentations

13:00 – 13:30 Session 4. Discussion and synthesis

13:30 – 15:00 Lunch

15:00 – 17:30 Round Table – Connecting research, policy and stakeholders challenges for the sustainability of grasslands

15:00 – 16:00 Panellists presentations

S. Ates, ICARDA, Jordan

D. Bakaloudis, Dadia-Lefkimi-Soufli Forest National Park, Greece

G. Beaufoy, European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism, Belgium

I. Hadjigeorgiou, Agricultural University Athens, Greece

C. Paraschoudis, Sheep and goat farmer union of Evros, Greece

D. Skartsi, WWF, Greece

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

16:30 – 17:30 Round table discussion

17:30 – 18:30 Business meeting of the Subnetwork and poster awards

18:30 – Close of the meeting

21:00 – Official Dinner

Day 4 - 15 April 2016

Optional post-Meeting tour (organisation conditioned to the number of people who wish to participate) at a price of 30 € to locations of historical and cultural interest in the outskirts of Orestiada. The burial tumulus of Mikri Doxipara (http://www.mikridoxipara-zoni.gr/mainMenu_english.html) is included in these locations. As agricultural production is important in the area, a visit to a milk processing plant and to a winery near the city is also planned.

The estimated time of return to Orestiada is 18:00 hours.





Language

The working language of the Meeting will be English.

Meeting Proceedings

The Meeting Proceedings, including the full texts of keynote lectures, theatre presentations and posters accepted by the Scientific Committee will be published in the CIHEAM journal *Options Méditerranéennes*. Copies of the Proceedings will be provided to participants of the Meeting.

Posters presentation

Posters will have a free layout with maximum size of 70 cm (width) x 100 cm (height). The displayed posters will be evaluated and the best poster of each session will be awarded.

Registration fees (deadline: 15 March 2016)

Before 15 March 2016 registration fees will be 250 € for senior experts and 150 € for young (below 35 years old) participants. Then, fees will be 300 euro for all participants.

Fees include attendance to the conference, refreshments and lunches, welcome reception and social dinner, the mid-Meeting technical tour and a copy of the Proceedings.

The optional post-Meeting tour price is 30 € (including lunch and guide) to be paid in addition to the registration fees.

- Payment should be made by bank transfer to the following account:

Account holder: RC-DUTH

IBAN: GR71 0172 3520 0053 52045052 151

Bank name: PIRAEUS BANK

SWIFT / BIC code: PIRBGRAA

To be indicated on the bank transfer: “FAO CIHEAM Orestiada 2016 – your surname”

(Note: All transfer expenses must be paid by the sender)

PLEASE SCAN THE PROOF OF PAYMENT AND SEND IT VIA EMAIL, BY 15 MARCH 2016, TO:

Paraskevi Sklavou,
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
psklavou@for.auth.gr





Accommodation

Participants at the Meeting can be lodged at one of the following hotels, located in Orestiada city center, a few minutes walking distance from the venue of the Meeting.

Hotel	Address	Web / email	Single room	Double room
<i>Alexandros</i>	10 V. Konstantinou Str.	http://hotel-alexandros-orestiada.gr/ info@hotel-alexandros-orestiada.gr	50 €	60 €
<i>Electra</i>	52 Pantazidou Str.	www.hotelectra.gr info@hotelectra.gr	38 €	50 €
<i>Selini</i>	46 Skra Str.	- selinihotel@yahoo.gr	35 €	45 €
<i>Vienni</i>	50 Orestou Str.	www.hotel-vienni.gr hotelvienni@gmail.com	35 €	45 €

All the Room prices are including breakfast and taxes.

For your hotel reservation send email to the hotel you prefer, indicating that your reservation is for the FAO – CIHEAM grassland congress. PLEASE BOOK YOUR ROOM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Payment will be made directly at the hotel by the participants in the Meeting.

