

Peer Review

Review of: "Climate and Environmental Changes: Reflections and Prospects for the Future of the Mediterranean Area — Food Security and Climate Change: Agricultural Considerations"

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The paper is very interesting, although it is dated. In fact, the data and bibliography are stopped at 2020.

The four case studies presented based on the CSA approach are very powerful examples of how both systemic changes in technologies for sustainable food production, management, and marketing and a reduction in dependence on external food suppliers are needed in Mediterranean countries.

More recent FAO documents reveal (and confirm) crucial data on global agricultural sustainability, food security, and employment in agri-food systems (World Food and Agriculture – Statistical Yearbook 2024). So do annual climate change conferences and the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031, which encourage science and innovation, inclusion, partnerships, and access to finance.

In the memorandum of understanding, signed in 2021, FAO, CIHEAM, and UfM joined forces with the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) in the development of the “SFS-MED Platform,” an initiative for sustainable food systems in the Mediterranean that aims to promote dialogue and collaboration among Mediterranean countries and stakeholders in their national and regional food system transformation efforts.

It would be very interesting to elaborate on the initiatives launched and the results obtained with the PRIMA program in Morocco, Egypt, Spain, and Italy and to enrich the case studies presented. It is also

suggested to reinforce the results cited in the case studies with bibliographic references that are not always present.

Expanded background is also suggested. Climate change and geopolitical crises over the past five years are challenging international balances. Undoubtedly, the pandemic and the geopolitical crisis due to the war in Ukraine have brought out the need to introduce deep and structural changes to urgently address weaknesses in food systems and be prepared for further crises in the future. The European Union's agricultural policy guidelines, with the Farm to Fork strategy, address many stages of the food supply chain to ensure food security and safety. While, on the one hand, the new CAP 2023–2027 aims to simultaneously (including in Mediterranean countries as member states) pursue economic, environmental, and social objectives with measures to support income, productivity, quality, ecological transition, and innovation, there are still clear delays in development planning at the local scale in order to achieve a reconnection between agricultural and food policies at the territorial level. This would strengthen food safety and food security, as well as improve food quality and reduce environmental impact. The Green Deal strategy, although scaled back with the latest agreements, pushes in the European Union, and therefore in Italy, toward sustainable land use, on products resulting from new genomic techniques, on the production and marketing of plant and forest reproductive material, and on the reduction of food waste.

In light of new geopolitical evidence and current political strategies, it is suggested that the introduction be revised and a post-analysis of the projects analyzed in the case studies be included.

On the other hand, the conclusions are well done and already suggest new insights.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.