ONEWATER EUROMEDITERRANEAN WATER FORUM ROME 29.09-02.10.2026

MINISTERO DELL'AGRICOLTURA DELLA SOVRANITÀ ALIMENTARE E DELLE FORESTE

The role of water management in supporting agricultural resilience and food security across the Mediterranean

Scientific evidence and results on the ground from MASAF investment policies, beyond water efficiency alone

Ministry of agriculture, food sovereignty and forestry

Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum 2026 · 29 September – 2 October · La Nuvola, Rome

INFORMATION

Date	29 SEPTEMBER 2026
Time	11:30 – 13:00
Room	Itaca Room
Session	Special Session
Language	Italian

SUMMARY

At the Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry will present its long-term national strategy to modernise collective irrigation schemes, increase water availability and improve infrastructure and management efficiency. Addressing institutions, the research community, practitioners and stakeholders in water management and agriculture, the event will showcase scientific evidence from CREA and case studies on the direct and indirect benefits of irrigation investments. Taking a systemic perspective, it will consider benefits in terms of water-use efficiency, water quality and availability, aquifer recharge, biodiversity conservation, combating salinisation and the provision of ecosystem services.

AGENDA AND SPEAKERS

Time	Speaker	Organisation	Role
11:30	Dr. Antonio Frattarelli	Directorate for Rural Development – Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry	Moderator

Time	Speaker	Organisation	Role
11:35	Dr. Giuseppe Blasi	Head of the Department for the Common Agricultural Policy and Rural Development – Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry	Speaker
11:45	Dr. Simona Angelini	General Director for Rural Development Directorate– Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry	Speaker
11.55	Prof. Andrea Rocchi	President of CREA - Council for Agricultural Research and Economics	Speaker
12:05	Marianna Ferrigno. Eng	Senior Technologist at CREA Research Centre for Agricultural Policies and Bioeconomy, DANIA Database Coordinator	Speaker
12:15	Rodolfo Laurenti, Eng	Director of the Delta del Po Land Reclamation Consortium	Speaker
12:30	Natalino Corbo, Eng	Director of the Lazio Sud Ovest Land Reclamation Consortium	Speaker
12.45	Guido Contini, Eng	Director of the Paestum Land Reclamation Consortium	Speaker
13.00	Concluding remarks from Dr. Giuseppe Blas, Head of the Department		

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The growing pressure of climate change on water resources calls for stronger public policies to ensure water security, agricultural competitiveness and environmental sustainability. In this context, collective irrigation infrastructure plays a strategic role not only in efficient water distribution, but also in increasing storage capacity, reducing losses and strengthening the resilience of rural areas.

The Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum provides an opportunity for dialogue among institutions, researchers and stakeholders on climate change adaptation pathways and sustainable water management strategies. In this context, MASAF aims to present its long-term vision for modernising collective irrigation systems, illustrating how public investment contributes to improving infrastructure and management efficiency, increasing water availability and strengthening food security.

The initiative will also offer an opportunity to share experiences and results from local areas, highlighting the value of integrating public planning, innovation, research and operational water resources management.

OBJECTIVES

Objective 1. Present MASAF's long-term strategy to strengthen water security in agriculture, highlighting the role of public investment in modernising collective irrigation infrastructure, increasing water availability and improving the efficiency of water distribution and management systems.

Objective 2. Highlight, through scientific evidence from CREA, the direct and indirect effects of irrigation investments from a systemic perspective, considering benefits in terms of water-use efficiency, water quality and availability, aquifer recharge, biodiversity conservation, combating salinisation and the provision of ecosystem services.

Objective 3. Encourage dialogue among institutions, the scientific community and irrigation infrastructure managers, promoting the sharing of experiences and concrete results from local areas and contributing to the development of innovative strategies for climate change adaptation and agricultural resilience.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The event will be aimed at a broad audience, including institutions, research organisations, practitioners and stakeholders involved in various capacities in water resources management and use, as well as civil society.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The presentation of scientific evidence and case studies will highlight how investments supported by MASAF contribute to improving water resources management and the resilience of agricultural systems. The initiative will provide the Forum with evidence to inform discussions on irrigation policies, raising awareness of the strategic role of collective irrigation infrastructure in addressing the challenges posed by climate change.
The event will also help strengthen dialogue among institutions, the scientific community and irrigation infrastructure managers, encouraging the exchange of experiences, good practices and guidance to inform future investment strategies and sustainable water resources management.