



**Transnational Network
for enhancing the
Mediterranean organic
olive-growing
competitiveness**

BIOLMED Newsletter
Fifth issue 5



December
2010



Issued by:



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1. Introduction

This Biolmed newsletter informs us about the main activities and events of the project organised in the period of September to December 2010. We apologize for the delay in launching this issue, as it was due the workload of the project

The main actions of the Project were the organization of two Biol exhibitions on in Mgarr (Malta), in September and the last Biol exhibition in Córdoba (Spain). In both actions several parallel meetings and focus group were organised.

In Malta the first results of the inquiry to organic olive oil farmers and processors were presented for discussion. In Cordoba several discussion meetings panels and focus groups were organised. One of them was about Good Practice field experiences in Spain and Italy and other panel discussion was on the written materials for advisors and teachers in organic oliviculture in Spain. This was completed by a stakeholder's roundtable on short chains and the sector needs to develop organic olive oil production and consumption

Field experiments were also carried out in the four countries. We present in this newsletter the case of Spain

Finally the project has organised two Steering Committee meetings, one in Bari (Italy), and the last one in Córdoba in October in order to coordinate the activities and to review the task to be finalised and to deal with administrative aspects of the project.

We will report on all this activities to inform you about these actions. We hope you enjoy this newsletter

SEAE Biolmed Staff

2. Biolmed project recent activities

2.1 Biol exhibition in Mgarr (Malta) in September

A) Biolmed Permanent Transnational network (TPN) final meeting.

In Malta the final meeting of the permanent transnational Network was held. The final documents and agreements were analyzed and a taskforce was created to elaborate criteria to open the membership to all interested entities. The meeting was held at Mgarr Local Council between 22nd and 25th September 2010, parallel to the Malta biol exhibition. All Biolmed partners were attending this meeting.

During one of the evenings a joint meeting was organized with the Malta Organic Agriculture Network (MOAN) was organized. The activity was finalized with a traditional and organic Malta dinner offered by the local organizers and the Maltese olive oil sector in a private house. Some local authorities were also invited. A series of technical meetings were held, including Panel Tests and the Biol Prize.



B) Malta Biol Exhibition in Mgarr (Malta)

The **Malta Biol Exhibition** was organized by the Mgarr Local Municipality for the general public. The exhibition was opened by a conference followed of an olive tasting and an explanation about what is an expert panel test, to all the interested persons. These activities were followed by a traditional Maltese lunch.

C) Training course on organic on olive oil tasters

A training course on organic olive oil taste was organised by CiBI staff for the interested Maltese experts in the previous days of the Biol exhibition. Participants were trained to taste several type of oil oils coming from different countries and regions of the Mediterranean basin



2.2 Biol exhibition in Spain (Córdoba), 18th -20th of November

a) Biol exhibition in Spain

The Biol exhibition in Spain organized by SEAE in cooperation with Junta de Andalucía and EPEA was celebrated in jointly with the BioCórdoba Fair during three days. Biolmed has set one Stand among the rest of enterprise stands to show and disseminate the ongoing activities to the general public the Project activities. In this open air place in the street several activities were developed with children's (similar to Biolkids), and the Biol Prize was given together jointly with ECOTRAMA Prize from the Association of the Andalusia organic products Companies (EPEA), the most international organic olive oil Prize from Spain

The biol Exhibition has organized the First National Meeting of organic olive oil panelist of Spain, with experts invited from the 8 most relevant regions of the country with olive plantations (Andalucía, Aragón, Castilla-La Mancha, Castilla y León, Catalunya, Extremadura, Navarra and C Valenciana) and 6 panelists from Italy. The aim of this first meeting was to establish cooperation and harmonize the Prize rules of all the competitions in force in Spain and Italy, including Biol Prize and Ecotrampa Prize



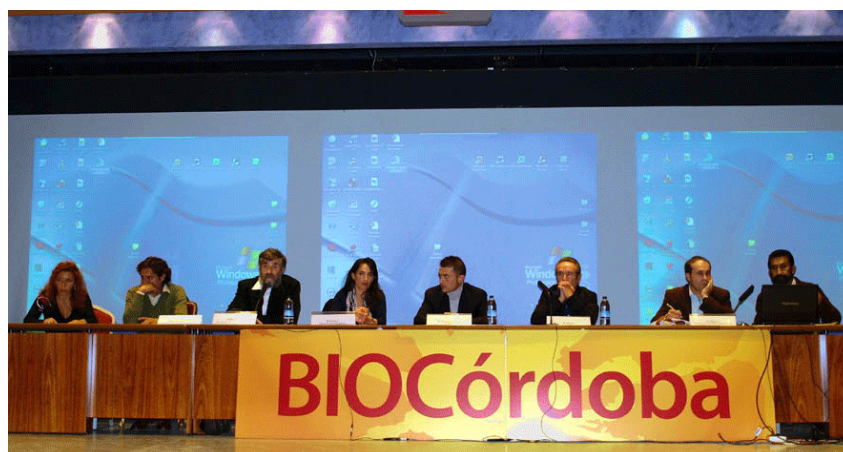
Photo: Concha Martínez

b) I National Symposium on organic olive oil quality

As parallel activity of the Spain Biol exhibition, the I National Symposium on organic Olive oil quality was organized by SEAE. In the opening ceremony members of the Junta de Andalucía, CiBI and SEAE were participating. This was followed by the opening panel of speaker's were several experts from Spain (I Amián, A Carpio, B Jiménez, M Pajarón) and Italy (G Paprella), A were invited.

c) Focus Group and panel discussion 19th of November

Several discussion panels (Focus Groups) were organized one about good practices on organic olive oil production and processing to improve the quality presenting several Spanish experiences.



Panel 1: Spanish experiences. Photo: Concha Martínez

Another discussion panel was celebrated to analyse and to present existing didactical and diffusion materials for training and dissemination purposes on Good Practices for the olive oil production. Finally, the last Focus Group was dealing with ways to improve local consumption of organic olive oils. In all these panels several invited experts, farmers and processors were participating.

d) Stakeholder´s Roundtable / Short chain promotion activities

A final Roundtable was also organized to identify the needs of the organic olive oil sector, with Spanish organizations of consumers: R. Nieto (Asociación Bioindalo), C Casas (Asociación de Consumidores de Almoçafre) and N. Salavert (Asociación VLAND Solaris); and producers: C. Ariza (ASAJA), M. Martínez (UPA) and P. Garrido (COAG).

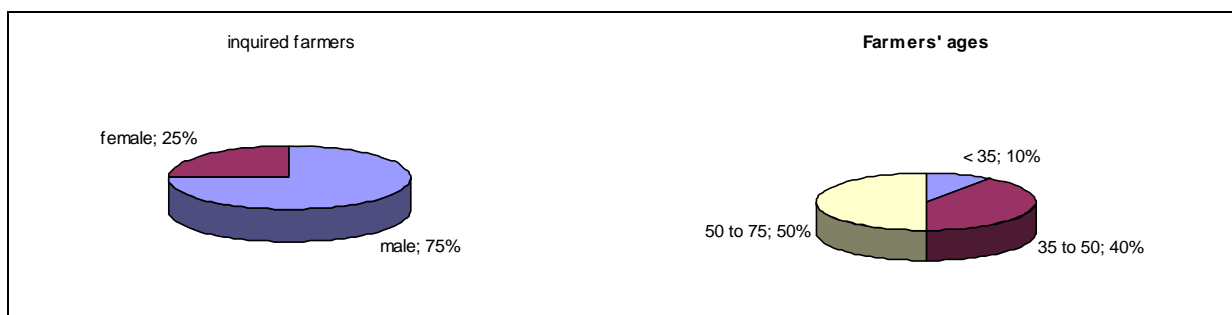


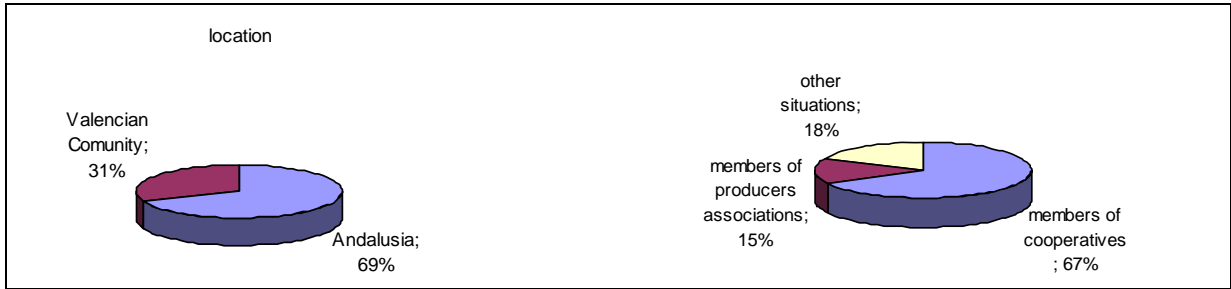
Roundtable. Photo: Concha Martínez

2.3 Results of the Spanish Questionnaire for operators

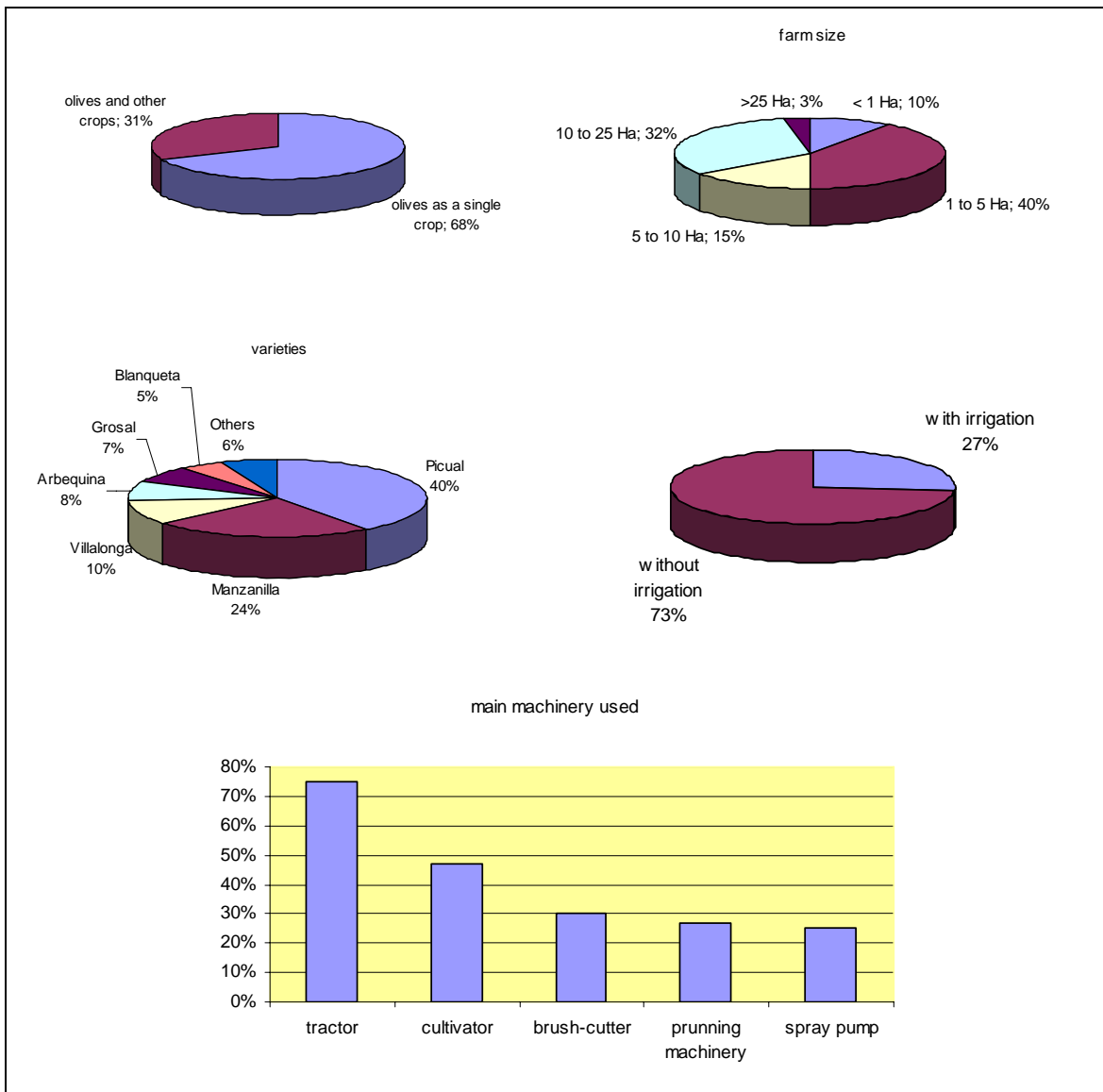
Within the task 4.2, development of technological innovations in the olive oil production chain to decrease the environmental impact, have been presented the results of the inquiry on innovations in organic olive oil production chains in Spain.

The inquired farmers were about 200, with the following characteristics:

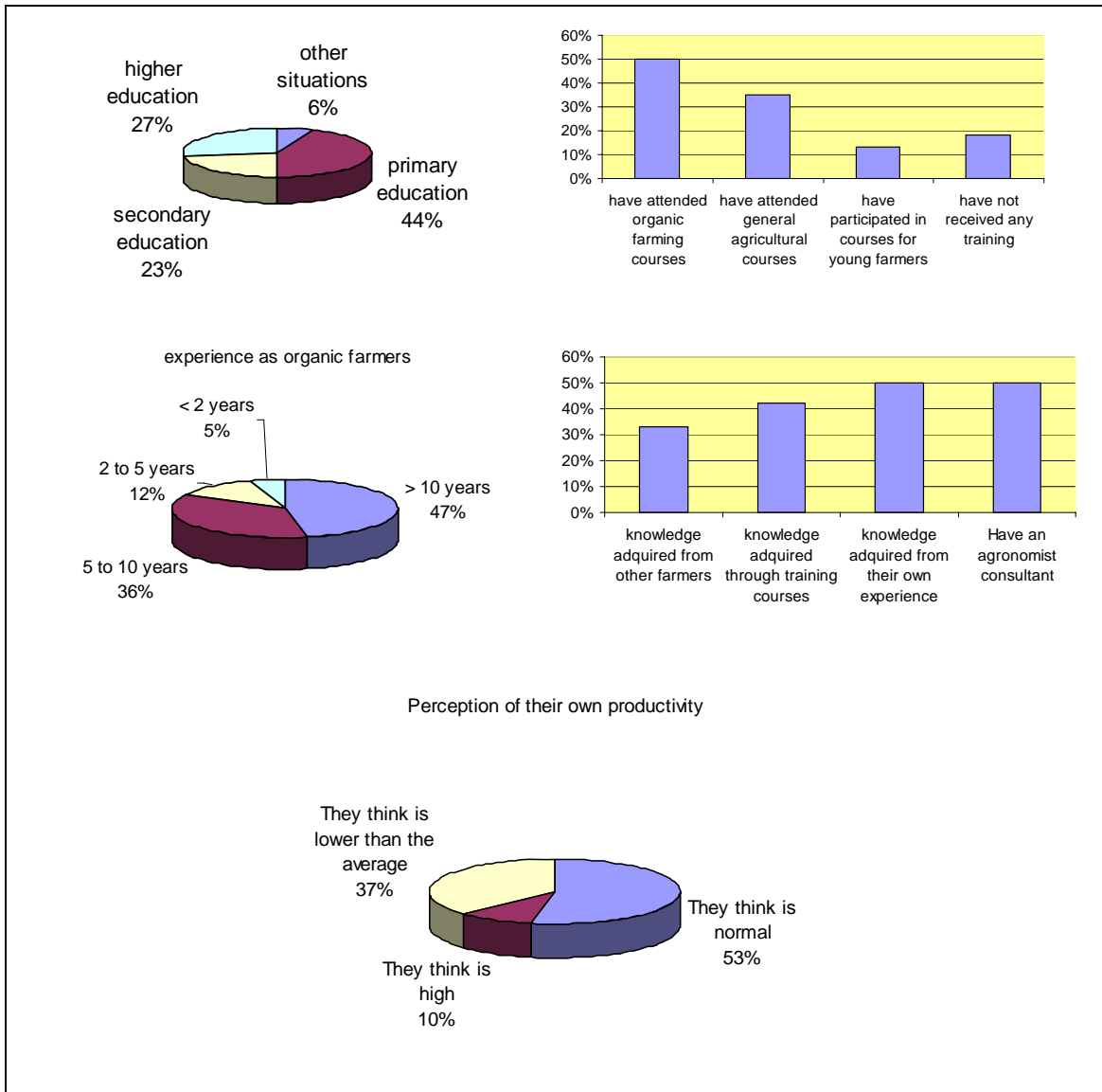




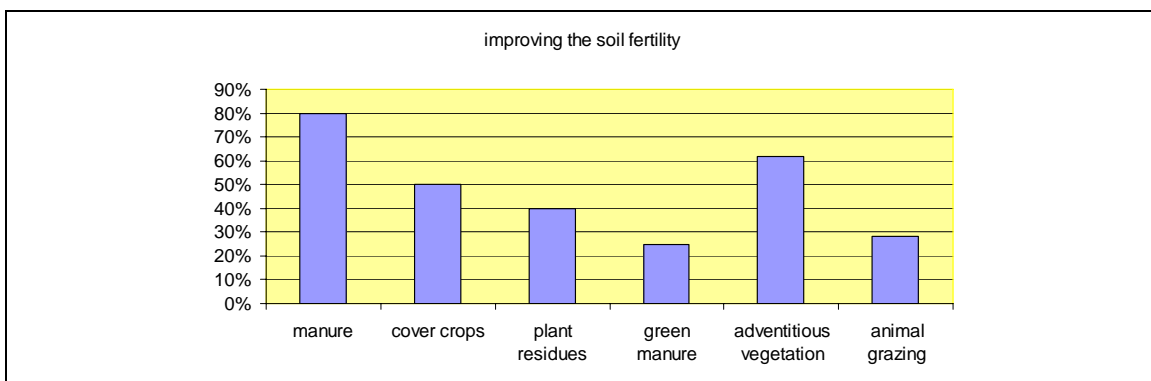
The farms profiles appeared to be as follows:

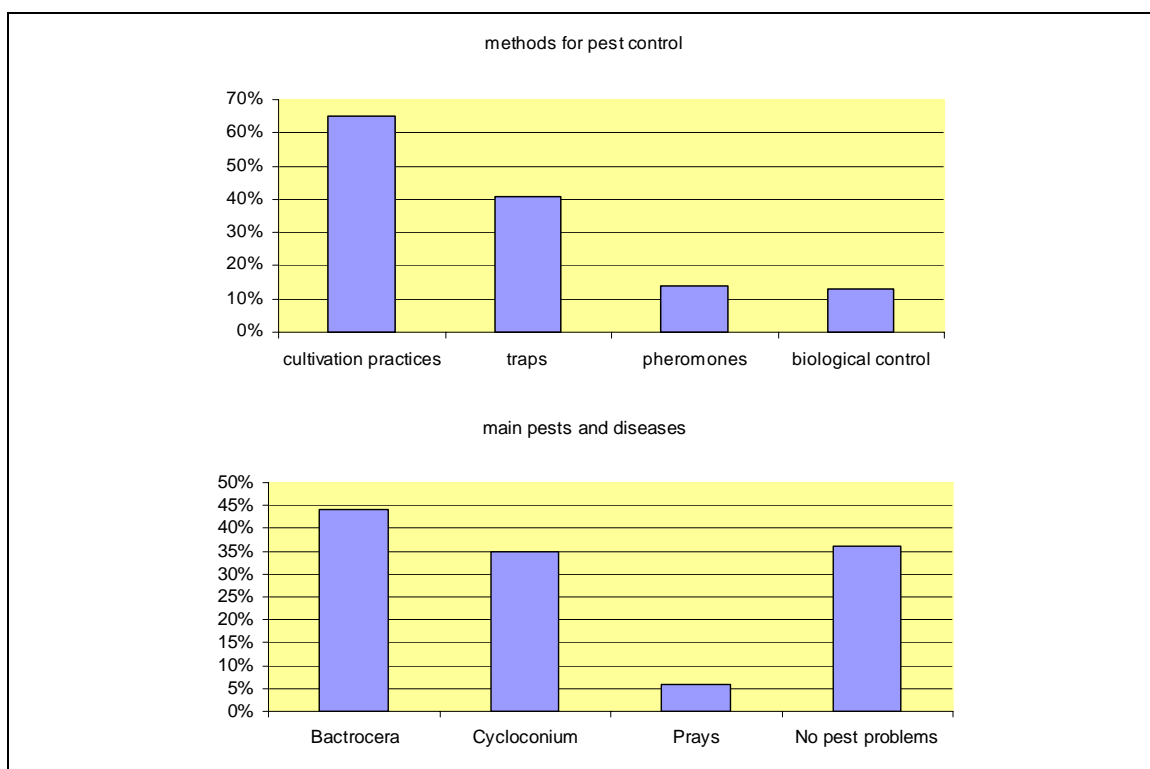


The data about expertise and knowledge sources show that:

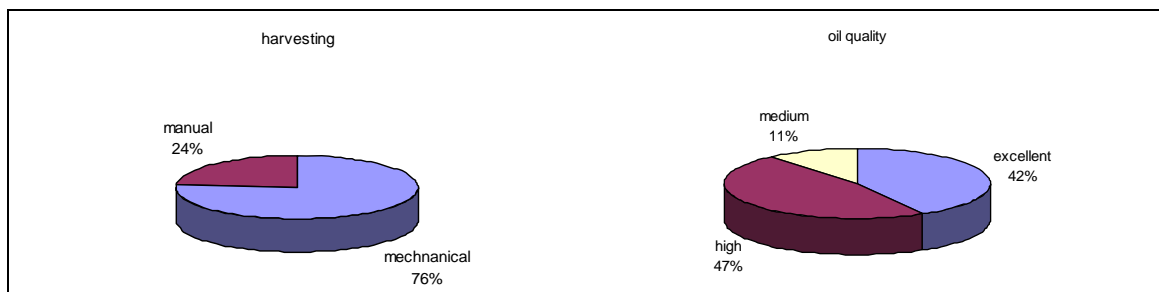


The enquiry obtained also data about soil and vegetation management, as well as data about regulation of pests and diseases:





Finally, the questionnaire asked about harvesting, oil elaboration and quality:



2.4 Preliminary results of the experimental fields

Experimental field in Spain

The experimental field in Spain has been located in Alicante at the Comunitat Valencian Community (Region). The field has been conducted by M^a José Payá and the design can be seen in the below photo.

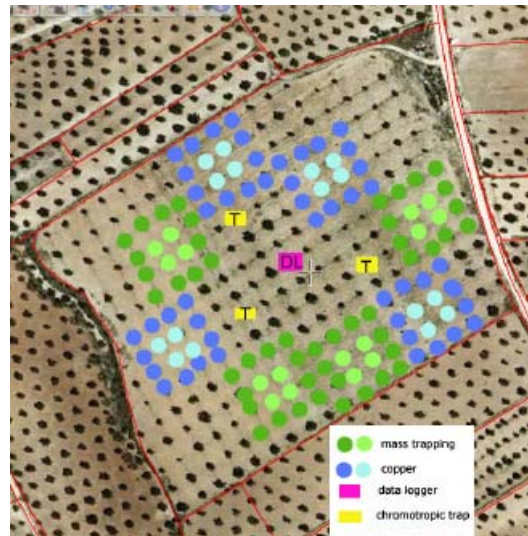


Image: Aerial view of the field with the experimental design

The main conclusions of the report of year 2010 are the following:

- The climatic conditions of the summer of 2010 have prevented the olive fly from appearing at the field of "Campo de Mirra". We have no found any fly neither in the chromotropic traps, neither in the olives.
- The temperature and dryness are factors that strongly determinate the infestation of *Bactrocera* in this area of the eastern Spain.
- This fact makes this area very suitable for the organic oliviculture, despite the treatments that conventional farmers perform every summer.

2.5 Group Purchasing Organisations and Farmers Markets instructions.

CiBi project partner coordinating the Component 5 of the Biolmed Project has circulated a Guide draft containing the strategy regarding how to spreading and enhance the organic short supplies chain in Mediterranean conditions. The strategy proposed is based in the creation of Farmer Markets (FM) by contacting with farmers and helping them to organize their activity. And as second step creating a Group Purchasing Organizations (GPO)



Both the FMs and the GPO could be launched with a common promotional activity as the organization of a one-day local market. Proposing to farmers and consumers

the whole “package” (FM, GPO and local market) by the Biolmed Service Center could even result more effective to get them involved: they will perceive you as people with a clear planned idea (resulting more trustable) and not just as “one-shot” seekers. The data in which we organize the one-day local market could be making together with Organic fairs or BIOL activities in each Region (see CiBI draft Guide)

All project partners were invited to add their one experience in each country to improve this Guide. In the case of Spain there are already many similar GPOs structures named “organic/agroecological consumers associations” of two types: joining farmers and consumers in one organization or only consumers. SEAE has made some contributions (see SEAE contribution)

3. Other project partners activities: SEAE (Spain)

3.1. Biolmed short chain days

SEAE together with local organizations has organized several Biolmed organic short chains days in Andalucía (4) and C Valenciana (4), in combination with to conventional farmers street fairs, courses or similar events, to promote organic days in Spain as detailed in the following table

Table Biolmed Organic days in Spain

Region	Already celebrated	Planned
Andalucía	Beas de Segura (Jaén), Guadalhorce (Málaga), Pampaneira (Granada) Córdoba	Alpujarra, Níjar (Almería) and Seville
C Valenciana	Almassora (Castellón), Alboraiá (Valencia), Altea (Alicante), Llíria (Valencia)	Benetusser (Valencia) and Valencia

Other four Biolmed organic short chains organic days are planned in February and one big meeting of Group Purchasing Organizations in Benetusser (Valencia). All detailed information you can find in the Biolmed website

3.2. Contribution to the Manual: Climate change and olive oil quality

SEAE has contributed to the manual of good practices to produce organic olive oil with some information based on organic olive oil of Los Pedroches (Cordoba). You can see this study at the webpage of the Project (Trabajo de Eduardo Aguilera en ingles)

3.3. Website

Relevant documents for the project has been uploaded in the webpage for all the visitors (see website).

Also most relevant outcomes drafts and reports of the project have been put in the intranet part for the project partners

4. News of the organic olive oil and mediterranean organic sector

*. Newsletter ABM.

http://www.ifoam.org/about_ifoam/around_world/agribiomediterraneo/newsletters/ABMNewsletter1-2010.pdf

*. Newsletter the IFOAM EU Group

Biofach "organic" activities. The Biofach Congress will be organized in Nuremberg during the 16th - 19th of February. Calendar of events organized by the IFOAM EU Group can be seen in the following link:
http://www.ifoam.org/about_ifoam/around_world/eu_group-new/positions/newsletters/pdf/IFOAMEU_Newsletter41_December2010.pdf

*. Newsletter the TP Organics

<http://www.tporganics.eu/index.php/news/113-tp-organics-newsletter-02-10-.html>

*. Newsletter IFOAM Head Office

IFOAM News

1. The IFOAM Summit 2011: 234 Days to the General Assembly
2. Remotely Participate in the IFOAM Summit via a Webinar!
3. Meet IFOAM at BioFach 2011!
4. IFOAM E-Directory 2011 to be Launched
5. IFOAM's Organic Alternative for Africa
6. IFOAM Launches the IFOAM Family of Standards
7. IFOAM Membership Consultations on the use of Nanotechnologies

More information: <http://www.ifoam.org>

*. Newsletter CIHEAM

<http://www.ciheam.org/images/CIHEAM/PDFs/Observatoire/Breves/rpjanvier2011.pdf>

*. The Organic Standards (TOS) issue

- Concern about phosphate scarcity
- Leader Organic origin and place of origin
- Regional focus Moldova leads the EECCA region
- Standards and regulations. The US perspective on protecting organic integrity
- Labelling the origin of organic food
- Updates and reports. Highlights of the NOSB meeting
- Organic 'Swissness'
- News from the Organic Farming Unit
- More time requested for the nitrite/nitrate issue

More information: www.organicstandard.com

*. News of Organic Wine Carta




Millésime Bio (Montpellier, France) the European Wine Charta was presented. In this initiative two project partners are involved (ICEA and SEAE).

More information: www.organic-wine-carta.eu

5. Next biolmed and organic events

Date (2010-2011)	Event
January 17-18	<i>5th Organic Producers' Conference (Celebrating 30 years of the Organic Research Centre, Elm Farm), Gloucestershire/UK</i>
February 16-19	<i>BioFach 2011, Nuremberg/Germany</i>
May 18-20	<i>First International Conference on Organic Food Quality and Health Research, Prague/ Czech Republic</i>
May 22-28	<i>The 2011 Summer School for Quality-Certified Training of Advisors/Trainers on Organic Agriculture, Chania/Greece</i>
May 26-27	<i>Organic Marketing Forum 2011 – 6th International Meeting on Processing and Marketing for Organic Products and Raw Materials, Warsaw/Poland IFOAM EU Group of patron of this event.</i>
Sept 16-18	<i>IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo Conference 2011, Zakynthos (Greece).</i>
Sept 26 – Oct 5	<i>The 17th IFOAM Organic World Congress 2011, Gyeonggi Paldang/ Korea</i>

6. Project addresses

Country	Partner	Area	Email / Web	Logo
Greece	<i>Technological Educational Institution of Ionian Islands.</i> Contact: Aristotelis Martinis, Pavlos Bouchangier	Ionia Nisia	amartinis@teiion.gr argostalos@teiion.gr http://www.teiion.gr/	
	<i>DIO - Inspection & Certification Organisation of Organic Products.</i> Contact: Charikleia Minotou	Attiki	charmini@otenet.gr http://www.dionet.gr/	
Italy	<i>Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari-IAMB CIHEAM.</i> Contact: Teodoro Miano (Project Coordinator)	Puglia	miano@iamb.it http://www.iamb.it/	

	<p><i>Regione Puglia – Mediterranean Department.</i></p> <p>Contact: Fausto Savoia</p>	Puglia	<p>f.savoia@regione.puglia.it</p> <p>http://www.regione.puglia.it/</p>	
	<p><i>CIBi - Italian consortium for biological products.</i></p> <p>Contact: Floriana Di Cintio</p>	Puglia	<p>f.dicintio@libero.it</p> <p>http://www.cibisani.com/</p>	
	<p><i>ICEA - Ethical and Environmental Certification Institute.</i></p> <p>Contact: Gaetano Paparella</p>	Lazio	<p>presidente@icea.info</p> <p>http://www.icea.info/</p>	
Malta	<p><i>Mgarr Local Council.</i></p> <p>Contact: Christine Lewis, Sammy Cremona</p>	Malta	<p>christine.lewis@gov.mt matty@vol.net.mt (Sammy)</p> <p>http://www.mgarr.gov.mt/</p>	
Spain	<p><i>Junta de Andalucía.</i></p> <p>Contact: Jon Jauregui</p>	Andalucía	<p>juan.jauregui@juntadeandalucia.es</p> <p>http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/agriculturaypesca/portal/areas-tematicas/produccion-ecologica/index.html</p>	
	<p><i>SEAE - Spanish Society of organic farming.</i></p> <p>Contact: Victor González</p>	C.Valenciana	<p>vgonzalez@agroecologia.net seae@agroecologia.net</p> <p>http://www.agroecologia.net/</p>	

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