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p. 10**PROGRESS IN WP6**

The advances in work package 6 were presented. Dr. Gema Parra Anguita develops her work in the Department of Animal Biology, Plant Biology and Ecology of the University of Jaén. Gema Parra belongs to the Ecology ...

NEWSLETTER 2

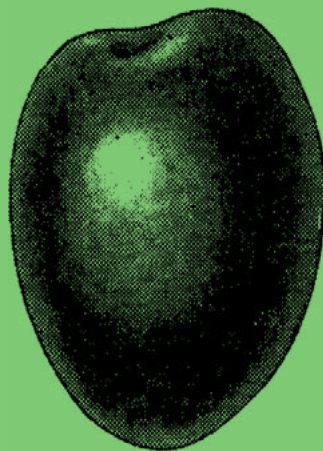
SUSTAINOLIVE | March 2020 - November 2020

“Giant”



53–60

“Jumbo”



46-50

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2nd ANNUAL MEETING OF SUSTAINOLIVE

ONLINE MEETING

September 29, 2020

On September 29, the 2nd SUSTAINOLIVE International Meeting started, with the participation of 50 people from the 22 institutions (Tunisia, Morocco, Greece, Portugal, Spain and Italy) that participate in the project. During the meeting, those responsible for the 7 work areas presented the progress of the scheduled tasks.

Last Friday, October 2, was the closing ceremony of the 2nd annual and international meeting of SUSTAINOLIVE. During the 4 days of meeting, the partnership of SUSTAINOLIVE had the opportunity to learn about the progress and outlook of the planned actions of the 7 work areas of the SUSTAINOLIVE project.

The work sessions were closely followed by the partners of the 22 entities belonging to 6 countries of the Mediterranean area. In the online meeting, the attendees averaged about 50 people and, in the closing ceremony, the project coordinator, Roberto García Ruiz (University of Jaén) congratulated all the speakers for the quality of their presentations and he thanked the participants for their contributions in the debates arising during the sessions.

Before the closing, a workshop was held with the active participation of the leaders of the 9 olive oil producer associations. They showed the training and demonstration actions planned in the project with the overall goal of training the farmers and oil mill staff in sustainable practices in the olive grove and in the olive oil production. The topics selected were based on the needs detected in each country and included: i) composting

by-products from oil mills, ii) pruning the olive grove, iii) biological control of pests and diseases, and iv) the management of spontaneous and seeded cover crops. The special circumstance of COVID 19 stands out, which makes it difficult to accurately schedule the training and demonstration actions.

Juan Francisco Hermoso from the Institute for Agrifood Research and Technology (IRTA), an organism of the Generalitat of Catalonia, showed the catalog of training courses related to olive groves and oil mills, as well as the online platform RURALCAT designed to support producers.

Saleheddine El Azzouzi, from the Acorn Association, and Fatima Raji Allah, of the Tismounine Association of Morocco, showed the training proposals aimed to valorise by-products from oil mills by the production of soap and construction elements.

From Portugal, Mariana Teles Branco from the Center of Olive Oil Studies and Promotion Alentejo, suggested the organization of training and demonstration actions jointly with ESPORAO and in collaboration with the Institute of Mediterranean Agricultural and Environmental Sciences of the University of Évora (ICAAM). These actions will be aimed at training for best practices in olive tree pruning.

Giorgios Kokkinos from the NILEAS producer group and Antonopoulos Michail, from the Kalamata Cooperative in Greece presented their training and demonstration proposals for local farmers focused on pruning, the use of oil mill by-products and the application of organic matter to the soil. Giorgio Pace, from the Italian Olive Consortium (UNAPROL), →



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This project is part of the PRIMA programme supported by the European Union.

→ proposed online training actions to overcome the difficulties regarding the by COVID 19.

Lastly, Moisés Caballero, from the Protected designation of Origin of Estepa (CRDOE), highlighted that the training and demonstrative events will be organized under the auspices of the José Humanes Chair for the promotion of sustainable management practices in the cultivation of olive trees. The large catalog of videos showing the demonstrative and training events organized under this Chair have been visited by nearly 300,000 people, and they are currently immersed in a project aimed to set up a database and online services through a mobile application.

This work session was coordinated by Alejandro Gallego from the Tekieroverde company, responsible for the WP7 of SUSTAINOLIVE. Alejandro Gallego is in charge of the coordination of the training and demonstration actions of the project. During the session, José Muñoz (ICAAM) proposed the organization of a specific meeting to design specific methodologies to boost the knowledge transfer to the olive farmers, as well as the dissemination of good practices between countries to solve specific problems.

March 28, 2020

Kamal Targuisti visits the members of the Zaouia Women's Cooperative

Between March 25 and 28, our colleague Kamal Targuisti from Abdelmalek Essaâdi University (Tétouan) visited the members of the Zaouia Women's Cooperative, in the province of Marrakech. The reason for the visit was the launch of an innovative project to diversify the production of local olive growers. An expansion of the facilities where the oil is milled is planned, and the programming of a training with the collaboration of the Moroccan Ministry of Agriculture. Fatima Raji Allah, manager of the Tismounine Association has led the project and facilitates dialogue between women partners and Moroccan institutions. SUSTAINOLIVE wishes you all kinds of success in the development of your project.

April 20, 2020

SUSTAINOLIVE survey

Within the framework of the SUSTAINOLIVE project (PRIMA H2020), coordinated by Roberto García of the University of Jaén, a survey is being carried out to identify and characterize the diversity of conditions under which olive groves are cultivated and olive oil is produced in the main producing countries of the Mediterranean basin. This task is integrated within the work area led by Doctor José Muñoz Roja (Mediterranean Institute for Agriculture and the Environment, University of Évora) whose objective is to provide a synopsis of the cultivation of olive groves. The spatial and socioeconomic structure of the olive grove, those key landscape elements, the pedoclimatic conditions, the technological and political contexts will be identified and characterized. This survey is being distributed in parallel in olive groves in Portugal, Spain, Italy, Greece, Tunisia and Morocco. Results will be posted at: www.sustainolive.eu

In Spain, the survey will include another 20 questions that will allow the identification of the main barriers in the transmission of knowledge from the centres that generate it and the olive growers, in addition to those that the olive growers identify as key when implementing sustainable agricultural strategies and practices. The identification of barriers and the design of a collaborative platform are tasks of the project related to the work area led by Dr. Gema Parra Anguita (University of Jaén), whose objective is to promote a change towards more sustainable models in the production of olive oil. Some of these barriers may be related to the training that farmers need, but also to the need for institutional support. The information obtained, both in Spain and in the other participating countries, will serve to guide the start-up of workshops in which these barriers are overcome through work programs with a participatory approach."



May 25, 2020

III International event of OLEA project networks

In the framework of the III INTERNATIONAL EVENT OF OLEA PROJECT NETWORKS, Roberto García, Professor of the Department of Ecology of the University of Jaén and coordinator of the SUSTAINOLIVE project (PRIMA H2020), intervened to present the project and inform of the tasks undertaken so far. In order to foster the joint participation of researchers, SMEs, public administrations, universities and research institutes in R&I project proposals on the olive sector, the UJA International Projects Office (OFIPI) has created the so-called OLEA Initiative, which started in Brussels on 29th June 2017 (OLEA R&I Project Info & Networking Event) and is implemented with the collaboration of the UJA Advanced Research Center in Olive Grove and Olive Oils. Following the success of this first meeting, the UJA hosted a second meeting on 25th January 2018 (OLEA R&I Project Development day) with over 100 participants. Furthermore, the International Olive Council endorsed this Initiative after a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the UJA and the IOC on 13th January 2020.

Program and registration: <https://www.ujaen.es/servicios/ofipi/olea-initiative>



OLEA
R&I PROJECT NETWORKING
OLIVE SECTOR



May 29, 2020

A Webinar was held on scientific research at the service of the olive grove in the countries of the

In May 29, a Webinar was held on scientific research at the service of the olive grove in the countries of the Mediterranean Basin. This meeting has been organized by the Faculty of Sciences of the Abdelmalek Essaâdi University to present the SUSTAINOLIVE project (PRIMA H2020), which addresses new approaches to promote the sustainability and management of olive groves in the countries of the Mediterranean basin. The meeting was attended by Professor Roberto García Ruiz from the University of Jaén and coordinator of the Project, Professor Kamal Targuisti from the Abdelmalek Essaâdi University, responsible for SUSTAINOLIVE in Morocco, and Mr. Ali Yahya, a graduate in biology and a doctorate in the Project framework. The Webinar was followed by more than 200 attendees, including teachers, students and technicians from all over the country.

June 5, 2020

Our colleagues from the CEPAAL have proposed a novel alternative to the Virgin Olive Oil Competition at the National Olive Growing Fair

Our colleagues from the Center for the Study and Promotion of Olive Oil from Alentejo (CEPAAL) have proposed a novel alternative to the Virgin Olive Oil Competition at the National Olive Growing Fair, which this year could not be held because of COVID 19. In words from its Technical Director, Mariana Teles Branco, "we have never wanted to stop doing the Contest because we believe that it is important for the work that the olive grower and olive oil producer has had throughout the year to be valued and recognized – we do not want that the 2019/2020 period goes unnoticed, even more so when it was an exceptional year for production in Portugal.

In this way they have decided to carry out the Contest via Online, the tasters receive in their homes small samples of all the olive oils submitted to the Contest and taste them in the presence of the Technical Director. An online platform developed for this purpose allows the live evaluation of different oils by 11 expert tasters to whom the organizers of the event are very grateful.

The Contest began on June 3 and the tasters can classify the olive oils until day 5. The definitive results were announced on June 12.

SUSTAINOLIVE congratulates this initiative that allows the enhancement of Portuguese olive growing.

More information in <http://azeitedoalentejo.pt/eventos/>



May 25, 2020

The SUSTAINOLIVE coordinator has resumed visits to olive farms once trips between provinces have been allowed

Doctor Roberto García Ruiz, professor at the University of Jaén and coordinator of the SUSTAINOLIVE project, has resumed visits to olive farms once trips between provinces have been allowed. The objective of these visits is to select farms that meet the criteria identified in the work area corresponding to the implementation and evaluation of sustainable technological solutions (STS) in demonstration farms. Several demonstration farms will be selected in each of the countries and regions of the consortium, including those where STSs have already been implemented (for at least 8 years), along with other control farms. These farms will be monitored in mutual coordination for a wide range of variables related to ecosystem services.

Specifically, last week the Spiritu Santo farm located in the municipality of Úbeda (Jaén) was visited. It is a 65 Hectare farm that has been producing and packaging its own oil with organic certification for 5 years. Its manager, Juan Molina, tells us about his obsession with closing the nutrient cycle and carbon sequestration on the farm, with practices such as the integration of livestock to control plant cover and promote biodiversity, the contribution of organic matter, use of by-products of the mill, water saving and other sustainable practices that are expressed in oils that are widely awarded internationally. To get to know his project better, you can connect with the following video:

<https://vimeo.com/92936837>



The second visit was to the Cooperativa San Vicente, in the town of Mogón (Jaén), which produces the Puerta de las Villas Olive oil. In this case, it is a project that brings together 1,300 members who totally depend on the cultivation of the olive grove. They cover a total of 3,800 hectares in integrated and ecological production in the privileged environment of the Sierra de las Villas Natural Park, in contact with the Guadalquivir river and the Aguascebas river. Of the total of the plots, 60% have a slope of more than 20%, and all are managed like traditional olive groves. This cooperative has been committed for years to the quality of the oil and the sustainability of its crops. The project is led by José Gilabert, and by Mariadelmar Manrique, President and Manager of the Cooperative respectively.

<https://www.puertadelasvillas.com/premios/>

SUSTAINOLIVE works in a collaboration agreement with all entities that work for the sustainability of the olive grove, facilitating experimental plots, developing communication, dissemination and training activities, as well as other actions that facilitate mutual learning and efficient collaboration.



July 16, 2020

SUSTAINOLIVE has contacted the technicians of the EIP Agri olive diseases and pests focus group

SUSTAINOLIVE has contacted the technicians of the EIP Agri olive diseases and pests focus group. SUSTAINOLIVE has expressed its interest in collaborating with the European Association for the Innovation of Productive and Sustainable Agriculture of the European Union, which aims to accelerate innovation in the agricultural sector, to achieve competitive agriculture that produces more with fewer resources and less environmental impact.

The technicians were very interested in SUSTAINOLIVE and offered to collaborate in different sections. SUSTAINOLIVE members can contribute experiences and content in the following resources:

- Database of innovative projects.
- Social media
- IAP Agri / youtube video channel
- EIP-AGRI Brochure Sustainable and resilient farming: Inspiration from agro-ecology
- Collaboration in the development of informative workshops

In the link you will find the summary document of the activities of the GF on diseases and pests of the olive tree that have been prepared by twenty experts during 2018 and 2019 and that has been recently published. [→Link](#)



July 21, 2020

SUSTAINOLIVE partners have published an opinion article in the Expresso newspaper on “Sustainability of Agriculture in the Alentejo”

Our Portuguese colleagues Teresa- Pinto Correa and José Muñoz have published an opinion article in the Expresso newspaper on “Sustainability of Agriculture in the Alentejo”, which emphasizes the crucial role for sustainable agriculture of the scarcity of soil and water resources, as well as the dangers and opportunities in the face of climate change derived from the recent expansion and intensification of crops in the Alentejo. The article is based, among others, on data extracted during the characterization analysis of the SUSTAINOLIVE WP2, and both the first autor, Teresa Pinto-Correia, and José Muñoz are part of the SUSTAINOLIVE team. [→Link](#)

The screenshot shows the Expresso newspaper website. At the top, the Expresso logo is on the left, and 'EXCLUSIVOS' and 'SEMANÁRIO' are on the right. Below the logo, there is a navigation bar with links for 'ÚLTIMAS', 'OPINIÃO', 'ECONOMIA', 'EXPRESSO CURTO', 'PODCASTS', 'TRIBUNA', 'PRESIDENCIAIS 2021', 'MULTIMÉDIA', and 'COVID-19'. A search bar is also present. The main content area features the article title 'Sustentabilidade da agricultura no Alentejo em risco' under the 'OPINIÃO' category.

Teresa Pinto Correia, Mário de Carvalho, Ricardo Serralheiro, António Chambel, José Muñoz Rojas, Miguel Araújo, Rosário Partidário, Isabel Loupa Ramos, João Ferrão

21 JULHO 10:46

A sustentabilidade e a equidade no acesso à água e a coesão territorial na região do Alentejo estão em risco devido ao aumento da área de agricultura intensiva no Alentejo por contraponto à escassez de água que se vive

MAIS VISTAS

Chega pediu aos

July 31, 2020

SUSTAINOLIVE with the European Association for Innovation in Productive and Sustainable Agriculture of the European Union (EIP Agri)

In the framework of the collaboration maintained by SUSTAINOLIVE with the European Association for Innovation in Productive and Sustainable Agriculture of the European Union (EIP Agri), a reference to SUSTAINOLIVE has been published on its website, with the description of the project, as well as a catalog of videos on good practices in the olive grove. EIP Agri aims to accelerate innovation in the agricultural sector, to achieve a competitive agriculture that produces more with fewer resources and less environmental impact.

Videos related to the Sustainolive project on sustainable management practices in olive production – EIP-AGRI – European Commission. [→Link](#)



September 1, 2020

Mercacei publishes “Promoting the sustainability of olive groves in the Mediterranean Basin” on the SUSTAINOLIVE project

The prestigious magazine Mercacei (<https://www.mercacei.com>), specialized in olive groves and olive oil, has published the article “Promoting the sustainability of olive groves in the Mediterranean Basin” on the SUSTAINOLIVE project. The final objective of the project is to improve the sustainability of the olive grove and the management of by-products from the oil mills. Funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Framework Program, it has an execution period of four years and a total of 22 partners from six countries participate. Download article in pdf: [→Link](#)



October 20, 2020

Assessments of the resilience to climate change in SUSTAINOLIVE project

This presentation has been carried out by Dr. Ignacio Lorite Torres (Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research and Training, IFAPA), who has 10 years of experience in the impact of climate change on agricultural systems in the Mediterranean.

IFAPA is a research and training organization of the Andalusian regional administration whose objective is to promote the development of an innovative business culture in response to the real needs of Andalusian agriculture. IFAPA’s “Agriculture and Environment” area works on evaluating the impact of climate change on Mediterranean olive groves using experimentation and modeling methodologies with the aim of promoting adaptation measures against climate change.

The impact of climate change on Mediterranean olive orchards will affect to the sustainability of these agricultural systems in the future. To mitigate this impact, the consideration of Sustainable Technological Solutions in the Mediterranean

olive orchards will be evaluated using experimentation and modelling tools. Thus, in the Task 3.7 of SUSTAINOLIVE project, advanced approaches for assessing the resilience to climate change of the Mediterranean olive orchards under future weather conditions will be considered. This task is led by IFAPA and will participate institutions from Greece, Portugal, Italy, Morocco, Tunisia and Spain.

The Task 3.7 will develop a specific simulation model for olive (named AdaptaOlive) that will incorporate new functions for simulating advanced crop and soil management practices for increasing the sustainability of these systems. The new approaches will be based on experimental field data collected in the six countries participating in the project. With this tool SUSTAINOLIVE project will be able to define the behavior of the Mediterranean olive orchards under different climatic and technological scenarios, and then, to identify those strategies more convenient for improving the sustainability of these agricultural systems in the future. [→Link](#)

October 16, 2020

Progress in WP6 of the SUSTAINOLIVE project. Dr. Gema Parra Anguita, University of Jaén

On September 29, and within the framework of the 2nd International Meeting of the SUSTAINOLIVE project, the advances in work package 6 were presented. Dr. Gema Parra Anguita develops her work in the Department of Animal Biology, Plant Biology and Ecology of the University of Jaén. Gema Parra belongs to the Ecology and Biodiversity of Aquatic Systems research group (RNM300), and is part of the scientific committee of the Center for Advanced Studies in Earth Sciences (CEACTierra).

During these first 15 months, task 6.1 of the project was carried out, which consisted mainly in the creation and implementation of a questionnaire aimed at identifying the barriers that farmers must face when carrying out sustainable agricultural practices in which the majority of SUSTAINOLIVE partners have participated.

After testing and modifying the questionnaire, at the end of May it was ready to be used and sent to the different partners. The final version was used during the spring and summer of 2020, with 20 items referring to the opinion of farmers on the barriers in the implementation of Sustainable Technology Solutions (STS), such as political support, economic disadvantage, lack of training and their environmental concern (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Factor affecting STSs implementation

Despite COVID_19, we obtained 167 participants, 68 questionnaires from Greece and 99 from Spain. In the future, we will have additional questionnaires from other countries to improve the sample size. In summary, and as sociodemographic information, we can say that more than 80% were men, more than 40% have a higher education level, and young people, under 40 years of age, represent 35% of the sample (Figure 2).

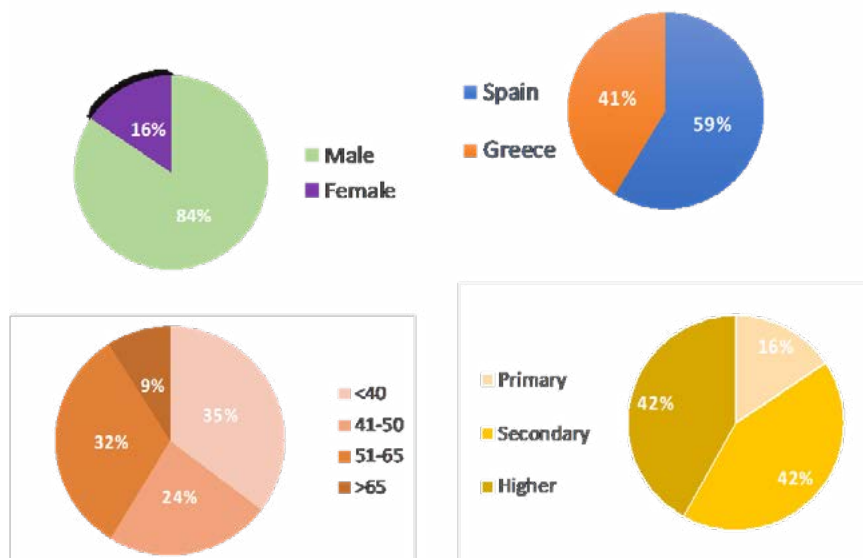


Figure 2. Participants demographic information

The data analysis tells us that the significant factorial structure of the questionnaire was made up of 3 factors:

- Factor 1. Lack of political support
- Factor 2. Lack of education and training
- Factor 3. Environmental concern

Considering the responses that the farmers gave us in each factor, we can assume that the three factors constitute a kind of barriers / handicap or facilitator in the use of STS (Figure 3).

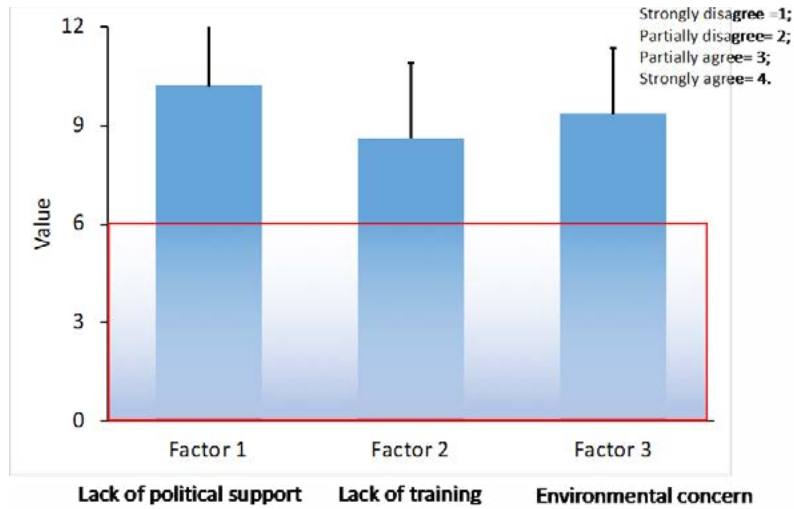


Figure 3. Factors mean values.

With this questionnaire we obtained relevant results with interest in future actions within the project and the rest of the tasks. For example, younger farmers encountered fewer barriers to implementing sustainable practices. In addition, people with a lower educational level found more barriers to implement practices and women reported higher values in the factors, which we interpreted as that they encountered more barriers.

Some interesting results emerged when comparing data from different countries. We found significant differences in the way the Spanish and Greek respondents value factor 1 (political support) and factor 2 (lack of training), although both consider both factors as a barrier. We could summarize that in Spain the farmer claims to have more political support while in Greece, the farmer feels he needs more training (Figure 4).

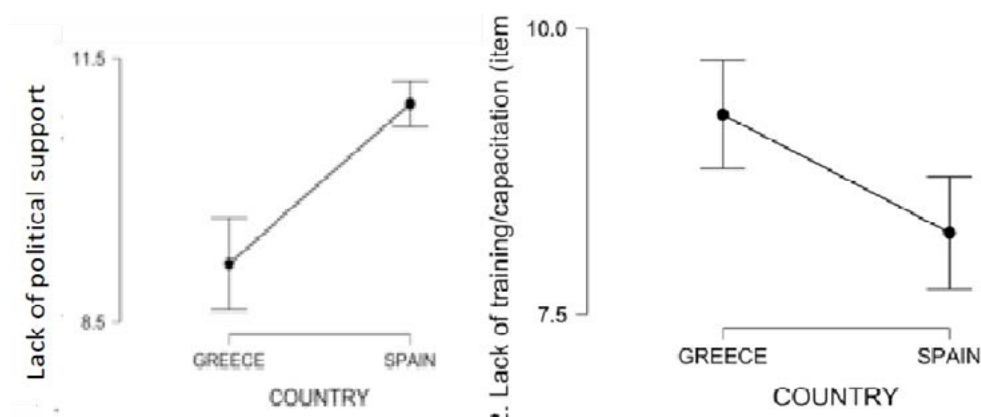


Figure 4. Comparing countries in factor 1 and 2.

One of our future tasks is related to the creation of a participatory platform, which will be a progressive web application that will allow our users and partners to be part of the SUSTAINOLIVE community.

Finally, we would like to invite all olive growers to fill out the attached questionnaire to improve our results.

You can send the questionnaires to this email: gparra@ujaen.es

→Link

October 27, 2020

Collaboration between SUSTAINOLIVE and Aceites Spiritu Santo

Within the framework of the SUSTAINOLIVE project, different research projects on technologically sustainable solutions have been launched with interested producers and cooperatives. Work is done on aspects such as pest control, plant covers or the use of by-products from oil mills. These collaborations are of great interest to stakeholders and we hope that they will spread to the 6 countries participating in the project. [→Link](#)

November 5, 2020

SUSTAINOLIVE participates in a webinar on the sustainability of the olive grove and its profitability for the environment

Julio Calero, a researcher at the University of Jaén and a member of the Center for Advanced Olive Oil and Olive Studies, participates in a Webinar talking about the present and future of the olive grove. [→Link](#)

November 19, 2020

Our partners in Morocco send us information about the activities programmed in the framework of the SUSTAINOLIVE project

Our partners in Morocco send us information about the activities programmed in the framework of the SUSTAINOLIVE project, coinciding with the harvest and milling of olives at the El Houda Cooperative, just 10 kilometers from the city of Ouezzane. It is a cooperative made up of 28 women who work in the production of olive oil.

The first activity consisted of a training workshop for the valorization of by-products from the oil mill for the manufacture of different soaps for the members of the El Houda cooperative.

The activities have been promoted by Saleheddine EL AZZOUZI (Association Bellouta) and the scientific team of the Abdelmalek Essaadi University has participated, formed by Kamal TARGUISTI and Ali YAHYA, who have assisted in the manual harvesting of the Cooperative's olive groves and the Plots of the Cooperative that will be used to carry out the experiments foreseen in WP 3 of the SUSTAINOLIVE project.

**Click to
watch the
videos**

—
SUSTAINOLIVE Project

—
**Dr Roberto García Ruíz -
Interview**

—
**Dr José Quiles from the
University of Granada -
Interview**

—
**Dr Anna Irene De Luca -
Interview**

—
**Work visit to Morocco for
the project**

—
**Dr Ignacio Lorite Torres -
Interview**

—
**Dr Olfa Boussadia -
Interview**

—
**Dr Nelson Marmioli
and Dr Elena Maestri -
Interview**



This project is part of the PRIMA programme supported by the European Union



**SUSTAIN
OLIVE**



PRIMA
Partnership for Research and Innovation
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA



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