



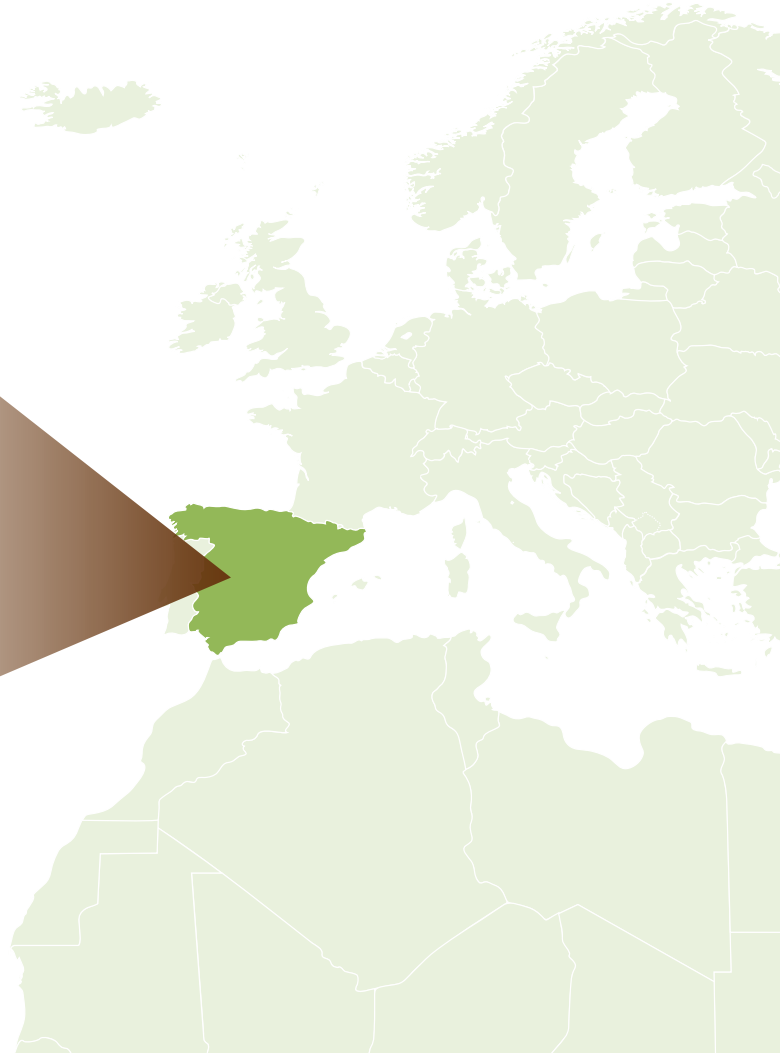
Photovoice: Spain

**Sustainability through the eyes of Andalusian
olive and almond farmers**

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through the eyes of
Andalusian olive
and almond farmers**

Spain

A photovoice exploration





Introduction

When most of us sit down to eat a meal, we rarely think twice about our food's journey before it reaches our fork. However, our food choices and policies have far-reaching consequences to people and planet, and even though we may not often consider them, the stories surrounding the people, places and things involved in serving our collective table could fill volumes.

This booklet provides an avenue to share some of these stories in a visual format. 34 almond and olive farmers from Spain spent three weeks in a collaborative process using photos and written interpretations to document their local understanding of sustainability and what they value in the countryside. The reader is invited to share in these perspectives and understand the needs, challenges and aspirations of those involved in producing our food. It is hoped that a shared understanding stimulates shared action to design a just food system that benefits all.



Background

The SNF-funded “Deliberative Diets” project (www.deliberative-diets.net) aims to better understand the remarkable diversity in what it means to be sustainable, to flourish and to adequately value our environment across the food system. The project focuses on the Swiss food system, which is heavily dependent on food imports to meet consumer demands (e.g. for exotic products and year-round choice). This means that the food system expands beyond the country’s borders and

“leaves behind” a substantial share of impacts on people and the planet. The food producers and local communities that bear these costs occupy distant locales and do not have a voice in our collective consumption decisions. To address this imbalance, this booklet was created to explore what it means to be sustainable and to value the countryside and nature through the eyes of local producers.

A photovoice exploration

This booklet is based on the results of a “photovoice” participatory research project. Photovoice combines the medium of photography (“photo”) with interpretations and discussions by the photographers (“voice”) into a unique collaborative process. Participants become “co-investigators” in the research and can better express their opinions, local knowledge and life experiences in relation to sustainability and values they hold for the countryside. Furthermore, the visual medium is powerful in overcoming social barriers by reducing the need to communicate verbally in a dominant language and providing all participants with equal opportunities to open up windows into their individual realities.

The photovoice process was conducted over a period of three weeks with 34 almond and olive farmers (14 female and 20 male) in two regions of Spain. A total of six days of workshops were conducted in both regions involving photography and visual literacy training in addition to work on the main topics of local definitions of sustainability and values for the countryside.

Why olives and almonds?

While olive oil and almonds are healthy elements of the popular “Mediterranean diet”, their production in water-scarce Southern Europe generates significant impacts to local ecosystems due to high water demand from irrigation. Recent research has also identified these two crops as amongst the top contributors to the water-related ecological impacts of the Swiss food system. Imports of these crops into Switzerland have also increased over the last decade by 33% for nuts, 28% for olive oil and 291% for table olives (FAO data). Addressing these large and rising impacts is thus integral to improving the overall sustainability of the Swiss food system.

The people and places

The first group of 17 almond and olive farmers (7 female and 10 male) were all members of the cooperative Oleand Manzana Olive. The cooperative is located in La Puebla de Cazalla near Sevilla, and our participants were predominantly characterised by highly mechanised and intensive olive and almond production (with a minority of organic farmers).

The second group of 17 (7 female and 10 male) was situated in the Alpujarra region, which consists of the mountainous areas below the Sierra Nevada in the hinterlands of Granada and Almeria. Due to this region’s steep slopes, mechanisation and industrialisation were only adopted to a limited extent and an agrarian landscape with a diversity of crops and agroeco-

logical practices is maintained. Some of our participants also engage in alternative marketing systems for their products.

Because the local conditions, lived experiences and world-views of the populations of these two regions differ so strongly, the results are presented in separate chapters of the booklet. However, it must be stressed that the resulting pictures and topics that emerged also varied considerably within the regions, namely between the female and male participants and between the more extensive and intensive farmers.

The researchers

The research was conducted by a team from the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture in Switzerland (FiBL; Frick CH), the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL; Birmensdorf CH), and La Universidad Pablo Olavide in Spain (UPO; Sevilla, SP). See the Acknowledgements section for individual contributors.

Structure of the photovoice accounts

The following section is divided into two chapters, one for each case study region. These chapters contain separate sections on (a) local perspectives on sustainability and (b) local values for the countryside. Sixteen photographs were selected for each chapter, each representing a topic related to sustainability/values that was further discussed and deliberated in small groups.

For each photograph, an interpretation by the photographer is included to provide context, including an image of the farmer's hand-written note. The interpretations are exact translations of texts written by the farmers, and are therefore unique, sometimes free-form, and often quite poetic snapshots of local life. A short description of the topic is also provided, in addition to the farmers' perception of the trend of the topic over the past five years (major improvement, moderate improvement, stable, moderate deterioration or major deterioration).

The selection of topics and photographs represents only a minority of the total themes identified and discussed and were selected based on farmers' rankings of importance and final choice by a 4-person panel of involved researchers. The farmers retained their cameras and are still involved in follow-up research and advocacy activities to build upon the work done.

Puebla de Cazalla

La Puebla de Cazalla is home to one of Spain's most important olive farmer cooperatives, located in an agro-industrial landscape of seemingly endless olive plantations. Participants in this region were largely from highly mechanized and intensive olive and almond farms, with a minority of organic farmers.

Adequate profitability

Goal

Farmers are able to maintain or increase their revenue while limiting expenses.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from moderate improvement to major deterioration

Amanecer

- Los productos fitosanitarios controlan plagas y enfermedades en el olivar
- Este trabajo se suele hacer a primeras horas de la mañana para evitar el aire y la calor
- En estos tratamientos se se pueden añadir abono para el crecimiento y vitalidad de la planta
- El intensivo es la modernización de la agricultura
- Se utilizan protectores para que la nueva planta no sea cortada y protegida

Sunrise

- Phytosanitary products control pests and diseases in the olive grove.
- This work is usually done early in the morning to avoid the wind and heat.
- In these treatments, fertiliser can be added for the growth and vitality of the plant.
- The intensification is the modernisation of agriculture.
- We use protectors for the young trees, so we protect the plant from being damaged.

Photo and Text: Antonio José Núñez Melero 2023



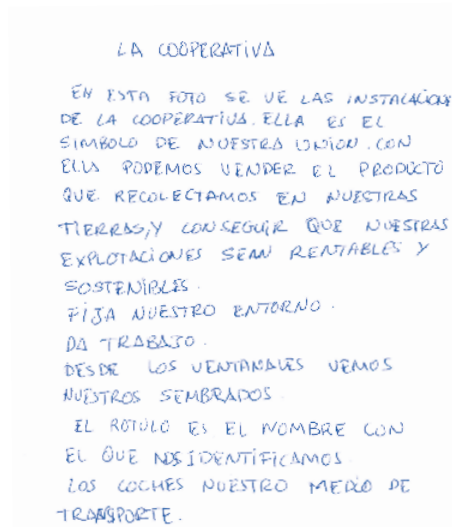
Organization in cooperatives

Goal

Farmers organize into cooperatives or farmers associations to improve bargaining power, reduce costs and obtain products or services otherwise unavailable.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from large improvement to moderate improvement



The cooperative

In this picture we can see the cooperative facilities.

It is the symbol of our union.

Thanks to the cooperative, we can sell the product we harvest in our territory and through it, make our farms profitable and sustainable.

It stabilises our environment and provides work.

From the windows we can see our farms.

The sign is the name by which we identify ourselves.

Cars are our means of transport.

Photo and Text: MJLO 2023

PLANTA LAS VIRTUDES


OLEAND

manzanilla Olive

SUR-AUTO
91 555 19 42 37

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Good water protection management

Goal

Water as a resource is shared in a fair manner within the community and irrigation practices are applied in the most responsible way possible to reduce water loss.

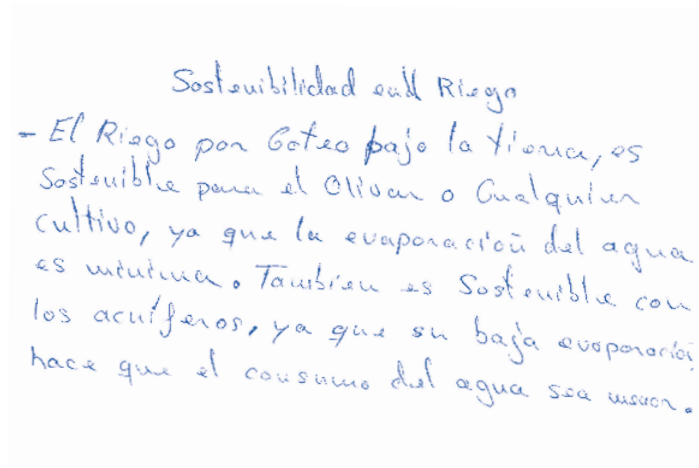
Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from moderate improvement to moderate deterioration

Irrigation sustainability

Underground drip irrigation is sustainable for olive groves or any other crop, as water evaporation is minimal. It is also sustainable for aquifers, as its low evaporation means that water consumption is lower.

Photo and Text: Fabian Vargas Andrade 2023





Capacity to adapt to change

Goal

Farmers are resilient enough to adapt to changing environmental and policy conditions in rural areas.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from major improvement to moderate improvement

Cubierta Vegetal

- Olivas joven donde se mantiene una cubierta vegetal hasta que compete por la humedad y se tritura con tractor, tambien se mantienen los troncos pintados para protegerlos de los roedores.
- La cubierta sirve para que las abejas transiten por el campo.

Green cover

- The green cover is maintained in this young olive grove. It is left until it competes for moisture and is then shredded with a tractor. The trunks are also kept painted to protect them from rodents.
- The cover allows bees to live in the field.

Photo and Text: Juan Félix Roperro Vargas 2023



Reconciliation of family life in the countryside

Goal

Farming communities and their members have enough time available to spend with and support their families.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from moderate improvement to stable

FUTURO

El futuro de mis hijos a veces se ve tan atormentado, como aquellas nubes, que con esta maldita sequía pasan para se van, sale adonde el cielo y nos nos deja el regalo que tanta falta nos hace. Pero hay que ser optimista, los agricultores tenemos la virtud de seguir echándole ilusión y ganas a nuestro trabajo para subsistir, aparte no nos queda de otra.

Una manera que yo veo sostenible el futuro de los míos, es reciclar, en la manera que yo quedo por eso muchas veces las botellas de refrescos, zumos etc las usamos para las injerzas hechas de zarza o en este caso para proteger al olivo joven que plantamos.

Colocamos trampas del atorrinda coterrina para que no puedan trepar hasta las ramas y comer se las ejas, con esto esperamos ver el resultado esperado.

Future

I, sometimes, see the future of my children really dark, like those clouds, that with this damn drought, they pass by and go. They only decorate the sky and do not leave us the gift that we so long for. But we must be optimistic, farmers do have the virtue of keeping the illusion and enthusiasm, in order to survive, in any case, we have no choice.

A way to contribute to the future of my people is to recycle as much as I can. Often, we use the bottles of drinks, etc to protect the new grafts, or the young olives that we plant. We place traps for the olive bugs, so that they can't climb up the branches and eat the leaves. We hope to see the expected result.

Photo and Text: Rocío Jiménez Díaz 2023



Knowledge transmission

Goal

Rural communities establish an environment where knowledge can be transmitted between and throughout inhabiting generations.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from stable to moderate deterioration

El toston

- Cada año el último día que trabajamos de el (30-12) es un poco diferente.

Ese día sobre las 12 del día paramos la recolección y nos reunimos alrededor de una hoguera y hacemos una comida tradicional de esta época. Para así recordar como se hacia antes, ya que hoy en día el horario de trabajo es diferente y no se almuerza en el tajo.

The toast

Every year, the last day of the year in the field is a bit different.

That day, about midday, we stop harvesting and we all meet around a bonfire and we make a traditional meal of this work. We like to remember how it was in the past, nowadays working hours are different and we don't have lunch at work.

Photo and Text: Toni 2023



Maintenance of self-sufficiency

Goal

Farmers are able to maintain and provide for their basic subsistence needs including nutrition and working materials.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from major improvement to moderate improvement

los microorganismos

- recolectando microorganismos para reproducirlos y regenerar los suelos
- El bosque natural nos da la fertilidad del suelo
- En las hojas del bosque encontramos la vida de las plantas
- los microorganismos de bosque son los encargados de alimentar nuestras plantas
- la naturaleza hace su trabajo y cuida nuestras plantas

Microorganisms

- Harvesting microorganisms to reproduce them and regenerate the soil.
- The natural forest gives us the soil fertility.
- In the leaves of the forest we find the life of the plants.
- The microorganisms of the forest are in charge of feeding our plants.
- The nature makes its work while it take cares of our plants.

Photo and Text: Antonio Guitiérrez Vázquez 2023



Improved gender equity

Goal

Farmers promote gender equity through commitment to institutional and cultural change.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from major improvement to moderate improvement

SEMBRAR UNA VIDA

Después de haberlo sembrado, se riega, se le pone un tutor para que el viento no lo doble, y crezca derecho. Se le pone un anillo que vaya desde el olivo hacia el tutor, en forma de ocho y así, está totalmente sujeto desde hoy que vigilado conforme crezca para que no se ahogue o se rompa.

Después se le pone un protector para que los roedores no lo dañen. A continuación se hace una poceta cuando hayan pasado varios días y vemos que lo necesita, se vuelven a regar y cuando haya absorbido el agua la tierra, se tapa con ayuda de la escudella echándole la misma tierra con la que hicimos la poceta.

El olivo necesitará un sin fin de nuestra ayuda habrá posibles contratiempos hasta que de su producción, incluso algunos se quedaran en el camino y habrá que empezar de nuevo.

Por ese camino se quedaran los días, la esperanza los años y nuestras manos ayudan lo al árbol. En definitiva entregamos como agricultor, nuestra vida, con aceites y equibaciones.

Sowing a life

After planting, it is watered, and then a stake is placed close to it so that the wind does not bend it and it grows straight.

We attached the tree to the stake with a tie, in a figure of eight, so is completely fixed. This must be supervised as it grows so that it does not choke or break.

Afterwards, a protector is put on it so that rodents can't damage it. Then, a tree pit is made, and when several days have passed and we see that it needs it, it is watered again and when the soil has absorbed all the water, then it is covered with the help of the weeder, adding the same soil that was used to make the hole.

The olive tree will need endless help from us, there will be possible setbacks, until it produces. Even, some of them will stop on the way, and we will have to start all over again.

On this road will stay the days, the hope, the years and our hands helping the tree. In short, we, as farmers, will give our lives, with successes and mistakes.

Photo and Text: Rocío Jiménez Díaz 2023



Water for life

Goal

Protection of water as the main resource for the development of life.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from moderate deterioration to major deterioration

Water

- *The hand of the farmer. We give the land WATER where there is not any, in these times of dryness when there is so much need of water, we bring water to each olive tree with irrigation hoses.*
- *The olive tree thanks these irrigations, we can already see its small fruits.*

Photo and Text: Patri Ropero 2023

AGUA

- la mano del agricultor le damos a la tierra AGUA donde no la hay, en estos tiempos de sequía que tanta necesidad de agua hay, llevamos con gomas de riego el agua a cada olivo.
- el olivo agradece estos riegos ya podemos ver sus pequeñas frutas.



Work and effort for profitability

Goal

Effort and energy to work and succeed in production.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from moderate improvement to moderate deterioration

Las manos del esfuerzo

En las manos del agricultor se ve reflejado el esfuerzo diario, grietas, golpes, cortes más aun si este no se amaña a usar guantes que se las proteja, pero nunca se causa ni se rinde por muy duro que sea el trabajo y dolencia que lleve las manos volvem a levantarse al día siguiente con la misma ilusión.

Sacrificio y esperanza al mismo tiempo cuando ves tu esfuerzo y dedicación recompensado.

The hands of the effort

The hands of the farmer show the daily effort: cracks, bumps, cuts... even more so if he does not manage to wear gloves to protect them. But he never gets tired or gives up, no matter how hard the work is and no matter how sore his hands are, he will get up again the next day with the same enthusiasm. Sacrifice and hope, both at the same time, when you see your effort and dedication rewarded.

Photo and Text: Loli Orellana 2023



Employment opportunities

Goal

The creation of opportunities for prosperity that are linked to the possibility of working in the territory.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from stable to moderate deterioration

Ejemplos

- En esta foto se puede apreciar a un joven con una motosierra cortando una rama a un olivo para así clavar un poco la planta, aquí quiero transmitir que a la finca se le da unos cuidados y por ello genera empleo, riqueza y es posible el relevo generacional para la sociedad y a mí me produce una sensación muy placentera porque en este caso es mi hijo y parece ser que le gusta mucho y ya piensa de cosas en ese sentido, es decir, ser agricultor.

Employment

In this picture you can see a young man with a pruning shear cutting a branch of an olive tree in order to lighten the plant a little. Here I want to show that the farm needs to be taken care of and how this provides employment, wealth and, perhaps, generational replacement for the society. And for me, this photo gives me a nice feeling, because this young man is my son and it seems that he likes it very much and he is already thinking of becoming a farmer.

Photo and Text: Francisco Pérez Recio 2023



Healthy food

Goal

Production of quality food for own consumption.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from moderate improvement to moderate deterioration

alcaparrón listo para comer
La alcaparrera planta silvestre que
crece en todo tipo de terrenos sus
tallos son largos y con espinas.
Se obtienen tres productos de la
misma planta, los primeros los
tallos cuando están tiernos, luego la
alcapara y cuando esta florece
nace el alcaparrón.
Los tres tipos se preparan de la
misma forma para consumirlos.
Primero hay que poner en agua media
para luego salarlos, también si los quieres
conservar por bastante tiempo se ponen en
salmuera y cuando se vayan a consumir
un día en agua para quitarle la
sal y salarlos.

The caperberries ready to eat

The caper plant is a wild plant that grows in all types of soil. Its stems are long and have thorns. From the same plant, we obtained three products, which are, first the stems when they are young, then the caper, and when it flowers, the caperberry is born.

The three types are prepared in the same way for consumption. First you have to put them in water for a day and then season them, also if you want to keep them for a long time they are put in brine and when they are going to be consumed one day in water to remove the salt and the seasoning.

Photo and Text: Loli Orellana 2023



Harvest for productivity

Goal

Assurance of quality and quantity yields at harvest.

Good yields are the result of many factors affecting both the land and the farmer.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from major improvement to moderate deterioration

- El fruto a la cooperativa
- El fruto cogido avano por 20 personas.
 - El zooldyx para transportar el producto a la Coop.
 - Los arboles se quedan sin fruto espando al año que viene segun el clima.
 - La chingeta para el frío de la mañana.
 - El sol apretando con mucha calor.
 - El campo nos da vida, producto y satisfacción.
 - El zooldyx generacional (poco Negro).

The fruit to the cooperative

- The fruit picked by hand by 20 people.
- The trailer to transport the product to the cooperative.
- The trees are left without fruit, waiting for next year depending on the weather.
- The jacket for the cold morning.
- The sun beating down with a lot of heat.
- The countryside gives us life, product and satisfaction.
- The generational replacement looks dark.

Photo and Text: Juan Manuel Vargas Jiménez 2023



Care reciprocity

Goal

Being part of the reciprocal relationship between the land and the people who care for it.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Moderate improvement

El arbolito desde chiquetito

Una vida dedicada a guiar a sus
niños como ellos los llaman con
caritas y paciencia procurando que
no les falte lo más imprescindible
el agua que tanta falta nos hace
y sobre todo podar sus ramas
cuando llegue el momento para que
se vaya formando un buen olivo
y tenga una larga vida
productiva.

To the tree from a very young age

A whole life dedicated to guiding/raising their children, as they call them. With love and patience, ensuring that they do not lack the most essential, the water, that we so much need. Above all, prune its branches at the right moment, to build up a good olive tree that gives us a long productive life.

Photo and Text: Loli Orellana 2023



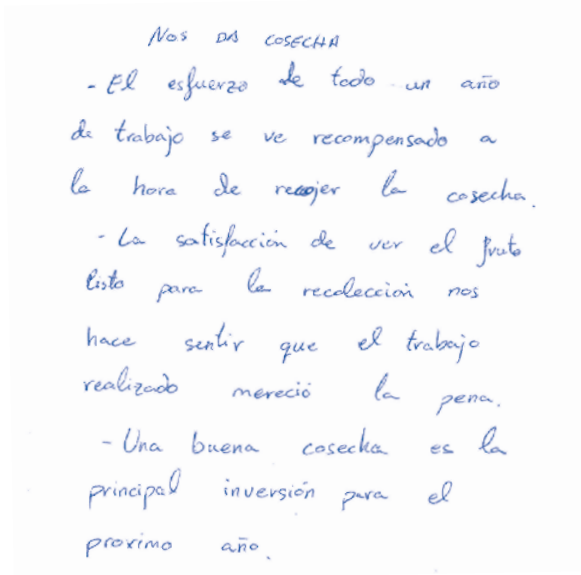
Food for society

Goal

Provision of food production capacity on a large enough scale to feed the world's population.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from moderate improvement to stable



It gives us the harvest

The effort of a whole year's work is rewarded when it is time to harvest.

The satisfaction of seeing the fruit ready for harvesting makes us feel that the work we have done, is worth it.

A good harvest is the main investment for next year.

Photo and Text: Juan Luis Andrade 2023



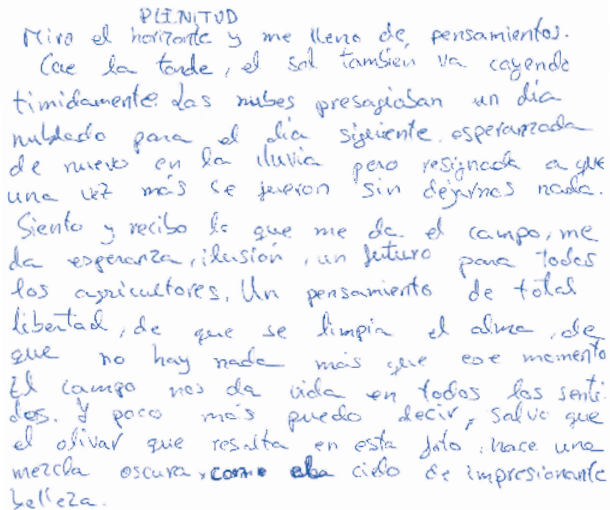
Freedom

Goal

Preserving the freedom and joy of working in the countryside that comes from contact with nature and self-management of work and responsibility.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from major improvement to moderate deterioration



PLENITUD
Miro el horizonte y me lleno de pensamientos.
Cae la tarde, el sol también va cayendo
timidamente: las nubes presagian un día
nublado para el día siguiente, esperanzada
de nuevo en la lluvia pero resignada a que
una vez más se jueven sin dejarnos nada.
Siento y recibo lo que me da el campo, me
da esperanza, ilusión, un futuro para todos
los agricultores, un pensamiento de total
libertad, de que se limpia el alma, de
que no hay nada más que ese momento.
El campo nos da vida en todos los senti-
dos. Y poco más puedo decir, salvo que
el olivar que resulta en esta foto: hace una
mezcla oscura, como ~~aba~~ cido de impresionante
belleza.

Plenitude

I look at the horizon and am filled with thoughts. The evening is falling, the sun also, shyly falls. The clouds foreshadowed a cloudy day for the following day, hopeful again for rain but resigned to the fact that once again they left without leaving us anything. I feel and receive what the countryside gives me, it gives me hope, illusion, a future for all farmers... A thought of total freedom, that the soul is cleansed, that there is nothing more than that moment.

The countryside gives us life in every sense. And little more I can say, except that the olive grove that stands out in this photo, makes a dark mixture, like the sky of impressive beauty.

Photo and Text: Rocío Jiménez Díaz 2023



La Alpujarra

The Alpujarra region is located in the mountainous hinterlands of Granada and Almeria, where historic isolation and uneven topography have contributed to the maintenance of traditional agrarian practices and community resource management.

Participants in this region were largely from small, diverse family farms that employ agroecological practices.

Harmonious coexistence with nature

Goal

Farmers structure their production systems in a way that allows for the coexistence of crops with natural elements and biodiversity in the most harmonious way possible.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from moderate improvement to moderate deterioration

Tradition

A traditional farm, without new modifications, with its traditional stone balates (stone walls), centenarians, its vines, olive trees... All coexist naturally, as sustainable agriculture, without neglecting the ravine, with its poplars, refuge of wild animals. Harmony between economy and nature.

Photo and Text: Francisco Javier Cañas Zapata 2023

TRADICION

UNA FINCA TRADICIONAL, SIN NUEVAS MODIFICACIONES
CON SUS BALATES DE PIEDRA TRADICIONALES,
CENTENARIOS, SUS PARRAS, OLIVOS, ... TODOS
CONVIVEN NATURALMENTE, COMO AGRICULTURA
SOSTENIBLE, SIN DAR DE LADO AL BARRANCO.
CON SUS ALAMOS Y REFUGIO DE ANIMALES
SALVAJES, ARMONIA ENTRE ECONOMIA Y NATURALEZA



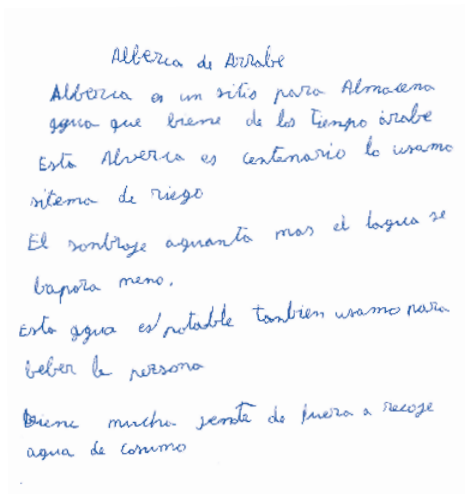
Good water protection and management

Goal

Water as a resource is shared in a fair manor within the community and irrigation practices are applied in the most responsible way possible to reduce water use and losses.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from moderate improvements to moderate deterioration



Alberca, from arabic times

The "alberca" is a place for storing water that dates from the time of the Arabs.

This pool is hundreds of years old and we use it in the irrigation system.

The shade holds the water better, it evaporates less.

This water is drinkable, also people drink it.

Many people come from outside to collect water for their own consumption.

Photo and Text: Fermín López Juárez 2023



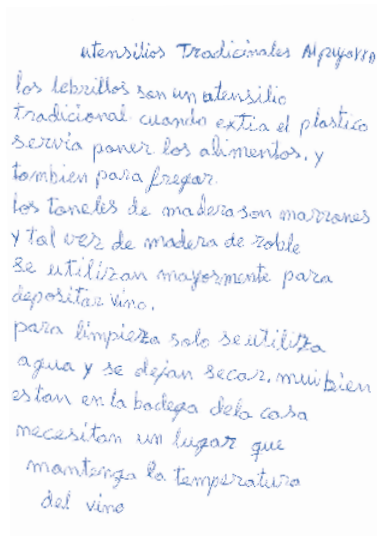
A decent quality of life

Goal

Farmers maintain a decent quality of life, encompassing sound personal health (physical, mental, and spiritual), relationships, education status, work environment, social status, wealth, a sense of security and safety, freedom, autonomy in decision-making, social belonging and their physical surroundings.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from major improvement to stable



Traditional utensils of La Alpujarra

“Lebrillos” are a traditional utensil from the time when plastic did not exist.

It was used to store food and also for dishwashing.

The wooden barrels are brown and may be made of oak wood.

They were mainly used to deposit wine. To clean them, only water is used and they are left to dry very well.

They are in the cellar of the house, they need a place that maintains the temperature of the wine.

Photo and Text: Amelia Granados Ortega 2023



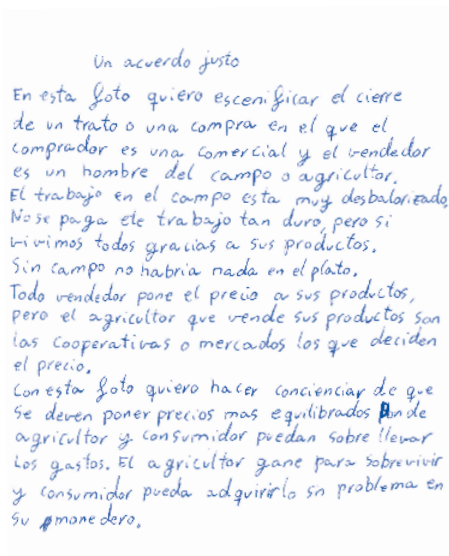
Fair prices

Goal

Farmers receive fair prices for their products that cover the costs of production and allow for profit while respecting their customers, community, and environment.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from moderate deterioration to major deterioration



A fair deal

In this photo I want to show the closing of a deal in which the buyer is a salesperson and the seller is a man from the countryside or farmer. The work in the countryside is very undervalued, this hard work is not paid, but we all live thanks to its products.

Without the fields there would be nothing on the plate. Every seller sets the price for his products, but in the case of farmers, the cooperative or the markets are the ones who decide the price.

With this photo I want to raise awareness that more balanced prices should be set where the farmer and the consumer can afford the costs. The farmer earns in order to survive and the consumer can buy it without any problem for their wallet.

Photo and Text: María Del Pilar BSK 2023



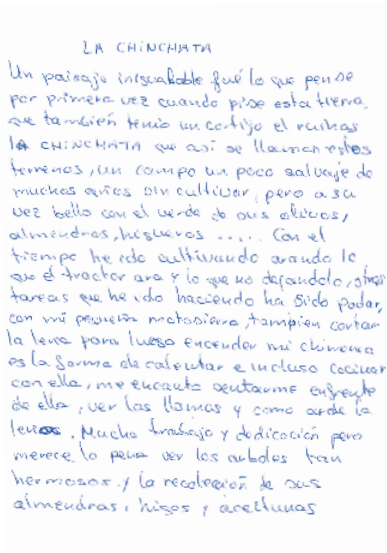
Protection of biodiversity

Goal

Farmers protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, combat desertification, and halt or reverse land degradation to counter biodiversity loss.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from moderate improvement to moderate deterioration



La chinchata

An incomparable landscape was what I thought for the first time when I stepped on this land. It also had a farmhouse in ruins, "La chinchata", which is how this territory is called, a somewhat wild field of many years without cultivation, but at the same time beautiful with the green of its olive trees, almond trees, fig trees... Over time I have been cultivating, ploughing what the tractor ploughs where I could, and where not I left it. Other tasks that I have been doing have been pruning with my small chainsaw and cutting firewood to light my fireplace. It is the way to heat and even cook with it, I love to sit in front of it, watch the flames and how the wood burns. A lot of work and dedication, but it is worth it, to see the beautiful trees and the harvesting of the almonds, figs and olives.

Photo and Text: Alicitel 2023



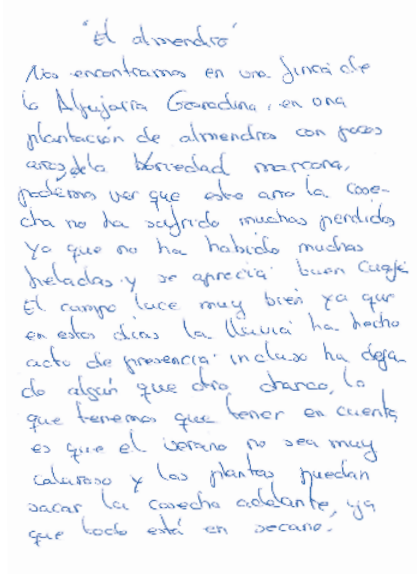
Recognition of female farmers

Goal

The work of female farmers is recognized and they are actively included and supported in male-dominated farming communities.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from moderate improvement to moderate deterioration



The almond tree

We are in a farm in the Alpujarra Granadina, in a plantation of almond trees with few years, of the marcona variety. We can see that this year the crop has not suffered many losses since there have not been many frosts and there is good “fruit set” (“cuaje”, development of fruit from the flower). These days, the field looks very good because the rain has been present, even leaving some puddles. What we hope for is that the summer is not too hot so that the plants can get forward to the harvest, because everything is without irrigation.

Photo and Text: Ana María Reinoso Fernández 2023



Effort and dedication

Goal

Farmers invest effort and dedication into their work to achieve satisfactory production goals.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from moderate improvement to moderate deterioration

Preparing the soil

Before planting the cherry tomatoes, we prepare the soil at the end of April or so, we plough so that the soil becomes loose. That's me, with the mules, my father taught me. I have always been in the countryside with my father and my brother. My daughter Mariana comes with me and she also learns.

Photo and Text: Francisco Luis Cortés Heredia 2023

PREPARANDO LA TIERRA
ANTES DE PLANTAR LOS CHERRYS
PREPARAMOS LA ~~LA~~ TIERRA A FÍNALES DEL MES
DE ABRIL MAS O MENOS, ARAMOS PARA QUE
LA TIERRA SE SUELTE. AHI ESTOY YO CON
LAS MULAS, MI PADRE ME ENSEÑO
DESDE SIEMPRE HE ESTADO EN EL
CAMPO CON MI PADRE Y MI HERMANO.
MI HIA MARIANA SE VIENE
CONMIGO Y TAMBIEN APRENDE



Ensuring generational succession

Goal

Conditions in rural environments are attractive enough for the younger generations to take over farms, and existing farmers can develop a successional plan.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from moderate deterioration to major deterioration

Mirando al Futuro

En esta foto se ve a mi hija en el ambito que mas le gusta estar, tiene pasion por los animales y ser libre en el campo, tener contacto con sus animales,...

Todo aquel al que le preguntas ¿que quiere para tus hijos te dice que algo mejor que el campo. Por supuesto yo tambien suelo contestar eso. Pero ¿si mi hija lo que le llama la atención es vivir y sostenerse con el campo? ¿Y si trabajamos para que el campo tenga el mismo éxito que el irte a la ciudad a trabajar? Lo que consigamos ahora sera para los que nos precedan.

Looking to the future

In this picture you can see my daughter in the place she loves to be. She has a passion for animals and being free in the countryside, having contact with her animals...

Everyone you ask what they want for their children says something better than the countryside.

Of course, I usually answer that too. But what if my daughter wants to live and support herself in the countryside, what if we work to make the countryside as prosperous as going to the city to work?

What we achieve now will be for those who come after us.

Photo and Text: María Del Pilar BSK 2023



Soil care

Goal

Maintaining and improving soil quality through environmentally friendly practices.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Moderate improvement

Hand

Hands, are maybe the part of the body that better connect with the environment.

With this photo I'm trying to show this kind connection between the human being and mother earth. Air and soil in favour of the human being.

Antonia's hand (seed keeper) in a living soil.

Photo and Text: Matías Ruiz Antequera 2023

MANO
Las manos son quizás el miembro del cuerpo
que más conecta con el entorno.
En esta foto pretendo plasmar esa
conexión amable del ser humano con
la madre tierra.
Aire y Suelo a favor del ser humano.
La mano de Antonia (Cuidadora de
semillas)
en un Suelo vivo



Satisfaction and well-being

Goal

Fulfilment in the countryside, through activities in nature, through the care of the territory and the associated well-being.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from moderate improvement to stable

Having a rest after work

To have a rest, in the countryside, while we pick olives, we light a bonfire and roast the products of the slaughter. Outdoor dining seeing these landscapes is priceless. I wouldn't trade this for all the five-star restaurants in the world.

Photo and Text: María Del Pilar BSK 2023

Un descanso despues del trabajo

Para reponer fuerzas en el campo mientras recogemos la aceituna encendemos una fogata y asamos productos de la matanza. Comer al aire libre y con estos paisajes no tiene precio. No cambiaria esto ni por todos los restaurantes de cinco estrellas del mundo.



Effort and work

Goal

To provide rural areas with the hard labour and physical effort required to be a successful farmer.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from moderate improvement to moderate deterioration

LABOREO MECANIZADO
UNA DE LAS FAENAS MAS IMPORTANTES
PARA EL CAMPO ES LA LABOR, SIN OLVIDAR
LA PODA, ABONADO, ETC. ESTE AÑO AL
NO HABER LLOVIDO NO HAY MUCHA HIERBA,
~~QUE~~ ES LO BUENO ES ENTERRARLE HIERBA
VERDE QUE LE APORTA FRECUA Y AL
LLOVER SE PUDRE Y ABONA. TAMBIEN
LE AYUDO CON ABONO, ANTES DE ARAR, Y
DESPUES SE ENTERRA AL LABRAR, JUNTO
CON LA HIERBA.
AL ARAR CON LA TIERRA MUY SUAVE LE
AGUANTA MAS EL SUELO

Mechanised ploughing

One of the most important tasks in the field is ploughing, including pruning, fertilising, etc... This year, as it has not rained, there is not much grass. The good thing is to bury the green grass which gives it freshness and when it rains it decomposes and fertilises. I also help with fertiliser before ploughing, and then bury it when ploughing, together with the grass. Ploughing with wet soil makes the water holding better.

Photo and Text: Francisco Javier Cañas Zapata 2023



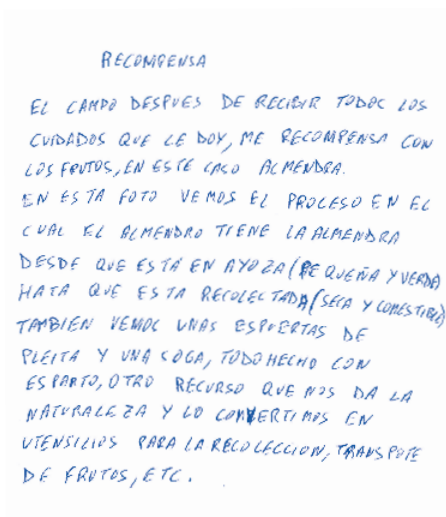
Agricultural practices and knowledge

Goal

Maintenance and application of knowledge on the management of agro-ecosystems necessary for the productive and reproductive functions of agriculture in rural areas.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from moderate improvements to major deterioration



The reward

The field, after receiving all the care I give it, rewards me with fruit, in this case, the almond.

In this picture, we can see the process by which the almond tree gets the almond.

From when it is in "ayoza" (small and green), until it is harvested (dry and eatable).

We can also see some "pleita" baskets and a rope, all made with esparto grass, another resource that nature gives us and we turn it into utensils for harvesting, fruit transport, etc...

Photo and Text: Francisco Javier Cañas Zapata 2023



Legacy and future

Goal

The transfer of knowledge and experience from one generation to the next is encouraged to ensure the future of farming.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from moderate deterioration to major deterioration

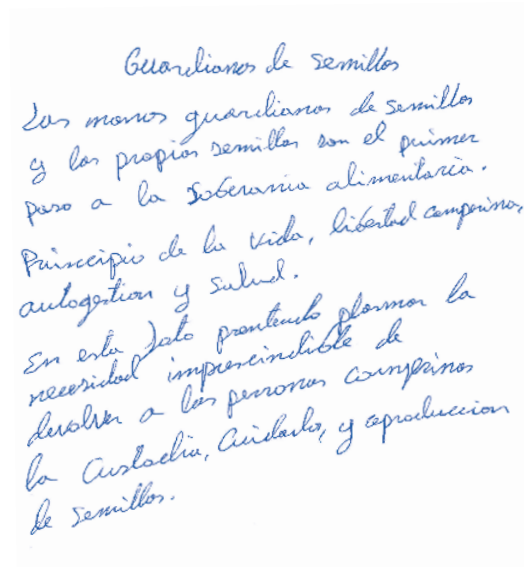
The guardians of the seeds

The guardians hands of the seeds and the seeds itself are the first step to food sovereignty.

The beginning of life, peasant freedom, self-management and health.

In this photo I intend to capture the essential need to return to the peasants the custody, care and reproduction of seeds.

Photo and Text: Matías Ruiz Antequera 2023





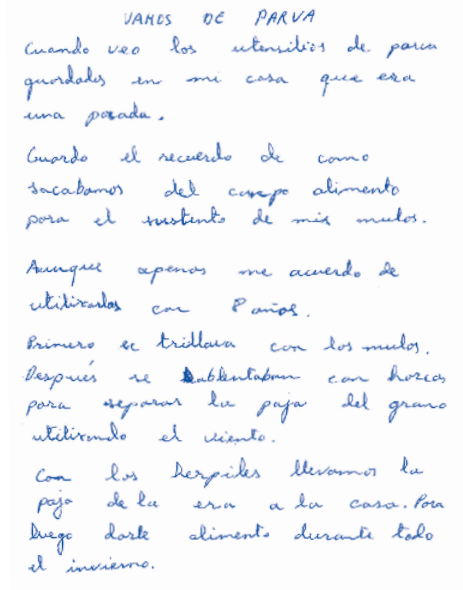
Roots and culture

Goal

Maintenance of a sense of belonging and identity to a territory and its way of life.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from stable to moderate deterioration



Let's go to make parva (haymaking)

When I see the parva utensils stored in my house, I see how amazing it was.

I keep the memory of how we used to take food from the fields to feed my mules.

Although I barely remember using them when I was eight years old.

First we threshed with the mules. Then we would winnow with pitchforks to separate the straw from the grain, using the wind.

With the esparto blanket ("erpil" - blanket made of esparto grass) we took the straw from the threshing floor to the house to feed it throughout the winter.

Photo and Text: José González Martín 2023



Family economy

Goal

Managing the resources a family uses to meet the needs of the household and its members.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from stable to moderate deterioration

CESTA-SOLIDARIA

Cada semana preparamos Cesta de temporada con los productos que tenemos en la huerta en cada momento.
Las familias del grupo se comprometen con una Cesta semanal o quincenal, la llamamos Cesta comprometida o Cesta de compromiso.

Cuando una familia no puede recibir su Cesta por alguna razón la entregamos de forma solidaria a una familia en situación precaria que no haya comprometido o en su caso a quien ella decida. En ese momento se convierte en Cesta Solidaria.

De esta manera el huerto siempre sigue vivo, la economía funciona y tenemos un acto de generosidad en lo social.

Cesta de Verdura del grupo de consumo de CASA-FARFARA

Solidarity basket

Every week we prepare our seasonal basket with the products we have in our garden in that moment.

The families of the consumption group commit to a weekly or fortnightly basket. We call this a pledge basket or commitment basket.

When a family cannot receive their basket for some reason, they give it in solidarity to a family in a precarious situation that we know or to whom they decide. At that moment it becomes a solidarity basket.

In this way, the garden is always alive, the economy works and we have an action of social generosity.

(Vegetable basket from the consumption group CASA FARFARA)

Photo and Text: Matías Ruiz Antequera 2023



Agrarian cultural landscape

Goal

Preservation of the cultural landscape as a result of the interaction and co-evolution between agricultural culture and nature in rural areas.

Farmers' perception of trends in the last five years

Ranging from stable to major deterioration

The views from my house

These are the views I have from my terrace, in the background "Sierra de Gádor", to the right "el cerrajón de Murtas", surrounded by almond trees, fig trees, vines and holm oaks, and the most important thing, pure air. The air that we have decided to breathe and live.

Photo and Text: Inmaculada López Fernández 2023

Las vistas desde mi casa.

Estas son las vistas que tengo desde mi terraza al fondo Sierra Gádor a la derecha el Cerrajón de Murtas rodeada de almendros, higueras, uvas encinas... y lo más importante aire puro el aire que hemos decidido respirar y vivir



Reflections

This photo booklet has attempted to open a window into the realities of a diverse group of olive and almond farmers from Andalusia in Southern Spain. Through pictures, written interpretations, and intense discussion, a number of key topics emerged that helped communicate to the reader what sustainability and their values for the countryside mean. Their perceptions of how these topics have developed over the past five years offer insights into where the most urgent priorities lie. It is important to note that these developments show only the direction of change, not whether the situation is currently good or sustainable. Opinions among groups of farmers also differed in some cases. Despite these caveats, some key trends emerge.

A crucial issue for all the farmers was the availability and distribution of water, as this could potentially ruin the future of olive and almond farming in Andalusia. Spain has experienced severe droughts in recent years, brought on by a rapidly changing climate. According to farmers, even the most advanced underground drip irrigation systems struggle to keep trees alive as dwindling water reserves are fully tapped. This is exacerbated by a deep and growing distrust of national and European agricultural policies, accompanied by feelings of abandonment by local society. Participants also expressed growing concern about the future of rural life, with few attractive prospects for young people to remain in the countryside and ensure the generational succession of family farms.

Diverse perspectives

The 32 topics presented in this booklet represent only a selection of the most important among over 100 topics identified by the farmers. More than half of the sustainability topics were related to social issues, such as justice, quality of life and gender equity. This contrasts with the scientific literature on sustainability, where social sustainability is arguably the least well-represented in current evaluation methods. Regarding values for the countryside, the farmers identified both the things they received from the countryside (e.g. cultural roots, clean water, employment and wellbeing) but also their own contributions to maintain the agricultural ecosystem and its ability to generate these values (e.g. care work, agricultural knowledge, water and forest management), emphasizing the two-way nature of the exchange and the essential role of people in the stewardship of nature.

The olive oil value chain

The 34 farmers that contributed to this booklet represent just a few voices of the approximately 142'000 olive producers in the Andalusia region of Spain. The vast majority of these farms (ca. 80%) are small-scale farms of less than 10 hectares. Olive is the most common crop in Andalusia, with over 1.5 million hectares of olive groves producing about 1.1 million tons of oil, as well as a few hundred thousand tons of table olives. While only about 3–4% of olive groves are currently under super-intensive, high-density management, this type of system is expanding rapidly. Factors driving this change include labour shortages and price competition that drive smaller producers out of business while others increase in size and degree of mechanization. After being harvested, the olives are brought to one of over 800 olive mills, where the oil is extracted at three levels of decreasing quality: extra virgin, refined olive oil and refined pomace oil. About half of these mills (responsible for ca. 65% of all oil production) are farmer-owned cooperatives.

The impact of globalization

Olive production is a deeply traditional practice in Spain that originally emerged to meet the needs of the local and national population. In the past half-century, olive oil has been “globalized” for sale internationally to markets elsewhere in Europe and further abroad. Currently, about half of the oil produced is still consumed within Spain. The price paid to farmers can vary by the type of value chain (e.g. conventional, organic, protected origin, local, national, global), and can typically range from 30%–40% of the final consumer price. This can increase by 5–10% if the olive mill is owned by farmers in a cooperative. Despite this, production costs at the farm are the highest along the value chain, and profits are often negative for all but the most intensive, irrigated farms (even when including subsidy payments by the EU). This creates a perverse incentive to intensify and mechanize production, worsening water scarcity and other environmental problems or to go out of business.

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Research team

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Deliberative Diets – Connecting producers and consumers to value the sustainability of Swiss food system scenarios

The Deliberative Diets project is being carried out by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL, the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL and the Centre for Development and Environment CDE at the University of Bern.

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The logo for ETH zürich features the text 'ETH zürich' in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with 'ETH' in all caps and 'zürich' in lowercase.

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Research on trade impacts of the Swiss food system

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www.wsl.ch

Centre for Development and Environment (CDE),
University of Bern
Mittelstrasse 43, 3012 Bern, Switzerland
www.cde.unibe.ch

Contact: Moritz Egger, FiBL, moritz.egger@fibl.org

Text: Moritz Egger; Patrick Michael Curran, FiBL;
see “Acknowledgements” section for all contributors

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The Deliberative Diets project is interested in the stories behind our food.

This photovoice exploration aims to represent the needs, challenges and aspirations of two almond and olive-producing communities in Spain, from their own perspective.