SUSTAINABLE OLIVE OIL FOR THE WORLD

31ST SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON OILSEEDS, OILS AND FATS
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Olive oil facts

Total area harvested
10,578,246 ha

Total production
3.1 mln t

Total consumption
3.1 mln t

Olive oil represents about 4% of the world consumption of edible fats

* Faostat, year 2019
** IOOC, year 2019
*** ISMEA, 2020
Production and consumption: global trends

The production and consumption of olive oils have almost doubled in the last 30 years.

Crucial role of "new consumers", countries where olive oil is not a tradition but where people are increasingly interested in wellness and health.
Olive production areas

Nearly 1,600 different varieties of olives are grown in the World

Image source: IOOC
Olive oils productive chain

Extra virgin and Virgin Olive Oils (>70%)

- Keeping of the peculiar organoleptic characteristics of the olive varieties
- Beneficial for human health (oleic acid and antioxydants)
- Highly versatile

*Our elaboration of an image from International olive growing: Worldwide Analysis and Summary by Caja Rural de Jaén, 2018*
Olive oil production models

**Traditional olive groves**
- < 140 trees/ha
- Irregular tree spacing
- Hills, steep slopes
- No irrigation, low mechanization, low inputs
- Low economic profitability
- Wide range of cv
- High multifunctionality (*soil protection, pasture, carbon storage, landscape, tourism...*)
- 73.9%

**Intensive olive groves**
- 140 – 399 trees/ha
- Regular tree spacing
- Hills
- Irrigation, mechanization
- Good economic profitability
- Wide range of cv
- Medium multifunctionality
- 21.3%

**SHD olive groves**
- up to 1,600 trees/ha
- Regular tree spacing (hedges)
- Flat areas
- Irrigation, mechanization
- High productivity and profitability
- Limited range of cultivars
- Low multifunctionality
- 4.8%
Main challenges

- Satisfy the **growing demand** for **quality** and **healthy** olive oil while meeting the **need for sustainability** of olive oil production, both environmental, social and economic.
- Address **climate change** issues: **shifts** in the cultivation area, use of **water**, spreading of new **pathogens** or changes in existing pathogens and pests.
- Consider sustainability issues in the **different countries** for their applicability (project SUSTAINOLIVE).
- **Protect and enhance** olive **biodiversity**.
- **Protect authenticity** and fight fraud to protect local producers.
- Implement **traceability** in the supply chain (according to Farm to Fork strategy).
- Reuse, recycle or upcycle of **byproducts** of the supply chain (pomace, pruning waste).
Opportunities for a sustainable development of the sector

1/2

- Foster a strategic governance and planning of the sector at global and country level
- Promote the intensification of the traditional olive groves where possible and where they do not have a multifunctional role - only using native varieties
- Enhance the multifunctionality of olive groves where possible (soil protection, carbon storage, pasture, valorization of landscape, tourism opportunities)
- Adopt different olive models depending on the territory
- Endorse the preservation and valorization of the local varietal diversity
- Encourage producers to adhere to certified quality and origin systems
Opportunities for a sustainable development of the sector 2/2

- Encourage farmers to adhere to **cooperatives** and producers’ **organizations**
- Offer **training and technical assistance** to farmers to apply sustainable practices
- Exploit modern technologies and **precision agriculture** tools in order to reduce external inputs and keep costs under control
- Encourage **synergies** between the supply chain and the research sector
- Promote the adoption of voluntary sustainability **certification schemes**
- Envisage **income supplements** for the virtuous farmers, for example in the context of the **carbon credit** market
Thank you for your kind attention.