

PROYECTO OLIVEN

ECONOMÍA CIRCULAR EN LA INDUSTRIA OLEÍCOLA: GASIFICACIÓN APLICADA A LA VALORIZACIÓN DE ALPERUJO

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PROJECT INFORMATION

FUNDING PROGRAMME



- ARIMNet (ERANET)

ARIMNet = Agricultural Research Innovation projects in the Mediterranean NETwork

- Call: ARIMNet2 2017 for **Young Researchers**
- Funding Institution: FP7 (European Union)
- Total Budget: 350.000 € (Funding = 250.000 €)
- Duration: 3 years (September 2018 – September 2021)

CONSORTIUM

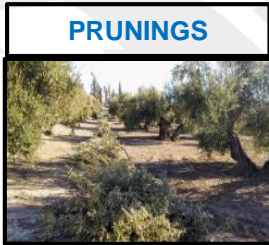
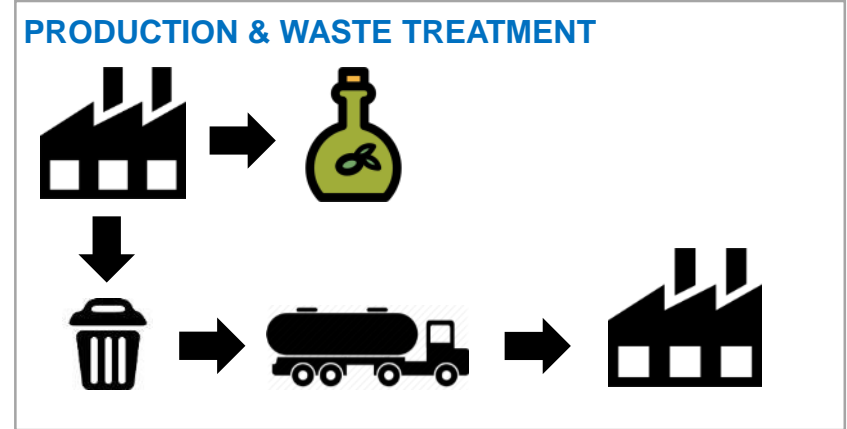
- Partner 1 (**Coordinator**): **University of Jaén (UJA)**, Spain 
- Partner 2: Ankara University (AU), Turkey 
- Partner 3: Olive Research Institute (ORI), Turkey 
- Partner 4: L'Institut de l'Olivier (IO), Tunisia 
- Partner 5: Direction Générale de la Production Agricole (DGPA), Tunisia 
- External Colaborators: Circular Carbon (CIRCA), CO2 Consulting 

BACKGROUND

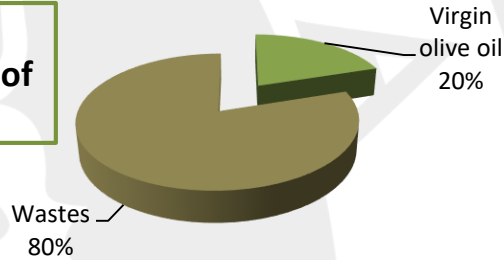
Electricity
Fuels
Chemicals
Water



Electricity
Fuels
Chemicals
Water



100 kg olives produce > 80 kg of wastes



CHALLENGES IN THE OLIVE OIL SECTOR

VOLATILITY PRICE

Precio Mensual en € / 100kg

● Aceite de Oliva Virgen Extra en España



TODAY

- Strong reduction of the virgin oil price (> 40 %).
- Intensive Farming
- Social disturbances, strikes, poverty rises up for farmers and olive oil producers.
- Solution of the Governments → **More Subsidies**

EL PAIS

Forbes

1309 views | Feb 7, 2020, 02:27am EST

AGRICULTURE >

Why Spain's
Across the country, agri-
precarious conditions of

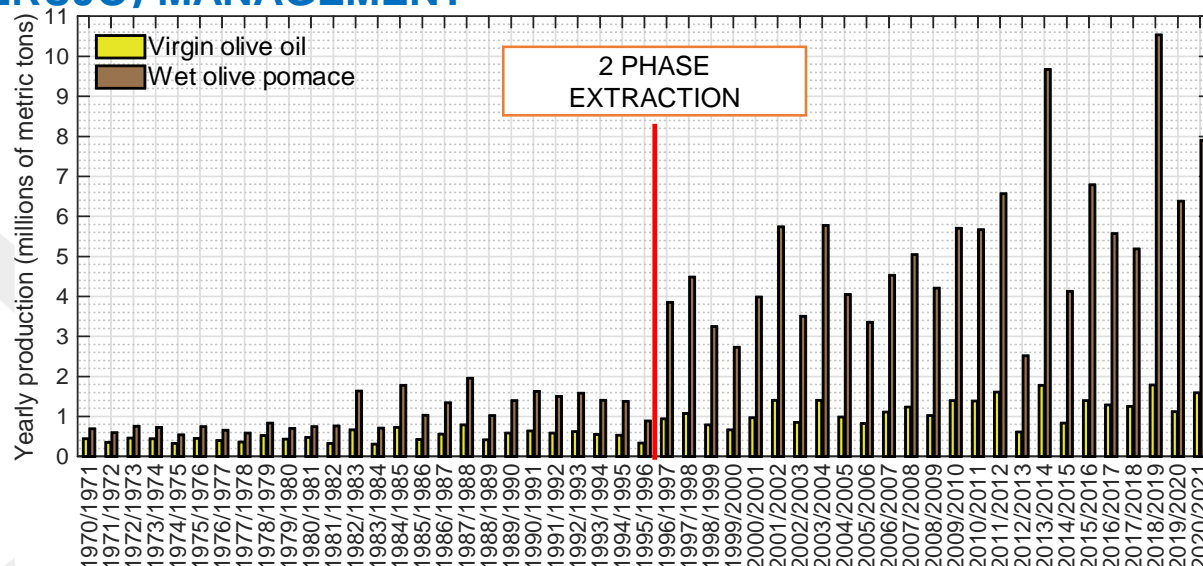
Spanish Farmers Rise Up
Against Unfair Prices Amidst
The Worst Agri-Food Crisis In
Decades




Olive producers from Granada and Jaén block the A-44 highway in protest over prices last Thursday. FERRAN RODRIGUEZ / EL PAIS

CHALLENGES

OLIVE POMACE (ALPERUJO) MANAGEMENT



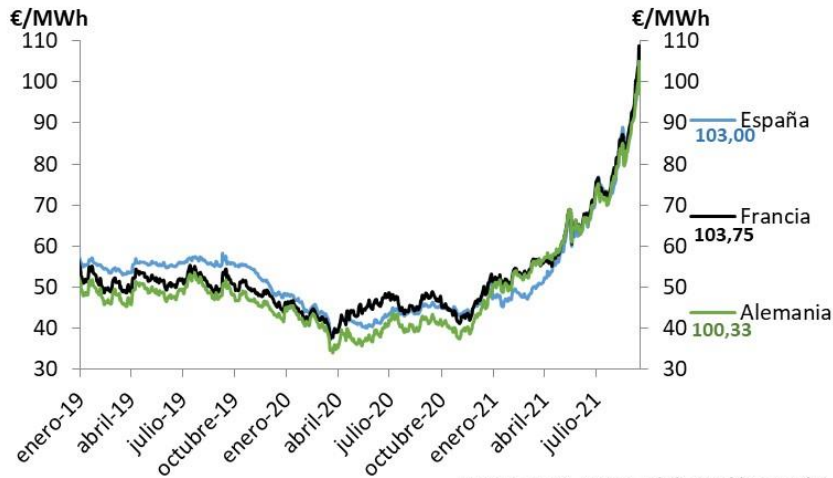
Features (harvests 2018/19 and 2019/20)

- Production of **large amounts of olive pomace** (increasing year per year)
- Nowadays **represents a cost** for olive oil mill owners.
- **Average costs (2-5 €/ton)**
→ **50.000 - 100.000 €/harvest** (MILL = 20 – 30 million kg of olives)
- **Lower price** of olive pomace oil
- Transport of water (> 70%) 

CHALLENGES

INCREASING OF THE ENERGY PRICES

Evolución del precio de la electricidad



Fuente: EEX, OMIP, Elaboración propia

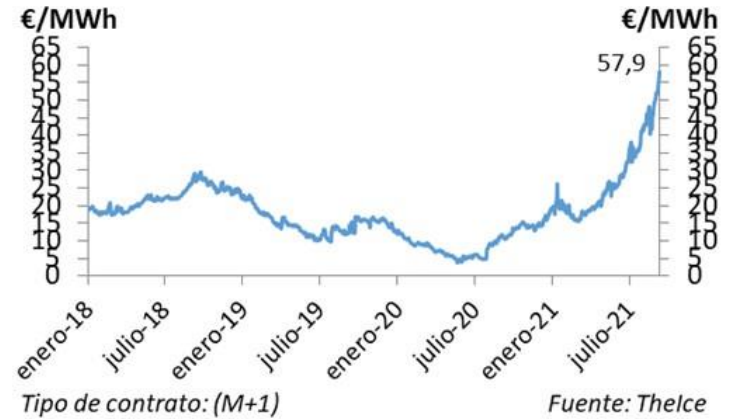
Current situation

- Increasing of the electricity bill (> 20 %).

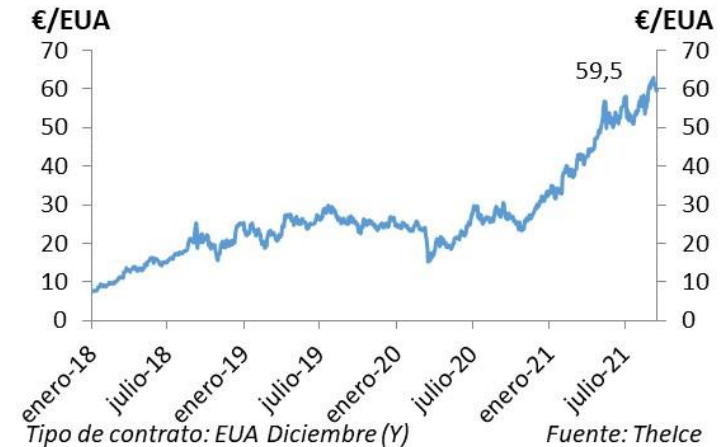
Medium size olive mill: 150.000 € (2020/21) → 200.000 € (2021/22)

- ORUJERA → 15-20% operating costs.
- PV technology is not a solution.

Evolución del precio del gas natural








Evolución del precio tonelada de CO₂



CHALLENGES

¿THE FUTURE OF AGRIFOOD SECTOR?

More Sustainability for 2030

-  Reduction of pesticides + herbicides (50 %)
-  Reduction of fertilizers (20 %)
-  Increasing of organic farms (25 %)
-  Increasing of the **energy efficiency**
-  **Promote Circular Economy**

EU executive s organic farmic

The European Commission has proposed while cutting the use of pesticides and fer

Forbes

EU Plans To Reduce Pesticides By 50%

The plan includes a target of reducing the use of pesticides by 50% in the next decade. The plan would also reduce sales of antimicrobials for farmed animals by 50%, and the use of fertilizers by 20%, by 2030. The share of organic farming would also be increased by 25% by 2030 - up from the current 8%.

Olimerca Información Oleícola Independiente

Los agricultores andaluces contra los ecoesquemmas que les llevarán a la ruina

Así lo denuncian ASAJA, COAG, UPA y Cooperativas Agro-alimentarias de Andalucía

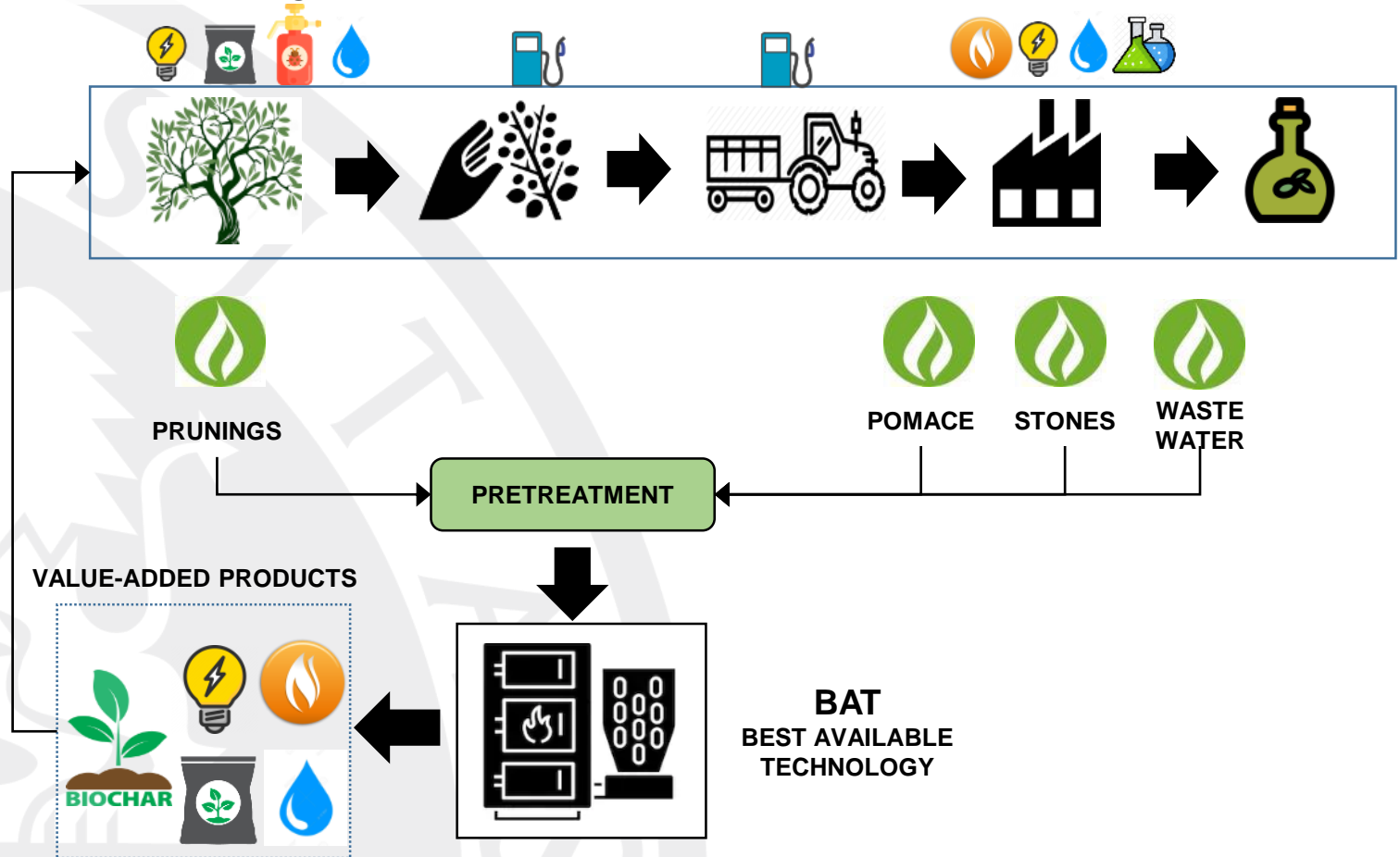
08/09/2021



OBJECTIVE









Main objective of OLIVEN

- Define **successful technologies** for olive industry **wastes/by-products valorisation** focusing on the **value chain enhancement**.



OBJECTIVE

Specific objectives

- **State-of-the-art** of the olive oil value chain and current wastes
- **Identify innovative and mature technologies** for olive wastes valorization. BATs → Best Available Technologies 
- **Carry out a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)** and Life Cycle Costing (LCC) of the current most representative olive oil value chain
 - From “cradle-to-gate”  →  →  → 
- **Comparative LCA and LCC** analysis to evaluate the impact of the BATs
 - Future simulated scenarios   
- **Install a demo-plant** in a real scenario
 - Knowledge transfer to the stakeholders



RESULTS

INFORMATION COLLECTION

STATE OF THE ART most representative value chain in each country

	SPAIN	TUNISIA	TURKEY
Olive tree surface (ha)	2.470.711	1.846.830	864.428
Virgin olive oil production (AVG tons 2014-2019)	1.314.118	195.000	186.800
Most representative region	Andalusia	Sfax – Sahel	Aegean
Olive grove share	62,5 % 73,4 % dryland 26,63 % Irrigated	37,2 % 98,4 % dryland 1,6 % Irrigated	52,5% 58,0 % dryland 42,0 % Irrigated
Olive tree density (trees/ha)	130 traditional	< 40 Traditional	250 intensive
Total of olive mills	1835 848 (Andalusia)	1721 1009 (Sfax-Sahel)	1229 398 (Eagean)
Main extraction process	2 phases (> 95 %)	3 phases (> 90%)	3 phases (55 %) 2 phases (45 %)

RESULTS

INFORMATION COLLECTION

Revision of the **BEST AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGIES (BATs)** and not yet BATs

Biomass Gasification Technology



Renewable Electricity (15 %)



Renewable Heat (60 %)



BIOCHAR (15 %)



BIOCHAR

- Soil amendment
- Extremely porous **activated carbon**
- Absorbs water and nutrients (up to 5 times its weight)
- High cation exchange capacity
- Improve the soil microbial life

Cost = 2.000 €/kW_e

Payback = 4-6 years

250 kW_e = 300-350 m²

Biomass consumption = 300 kg/h

RESULTS



LIFE CYCLE INVENTORY

- Development of normalized questionnaires according to ISO 14040 and 14044
- **Product Environmental Footprint Category Rules for Olive Oil (EC)**



SURVEYS

- face to face interviews
- phone calls
- mails
- web page



More questions...

- Olives harvested?
- Type of cultivation?
- Organic or Traditional?
- Irrigation system?
- Distances (km)
- Type of transport (tractor, trailer, truck)
- Type of fuels
- Consumables, etc.
- Virgin olive oil produced

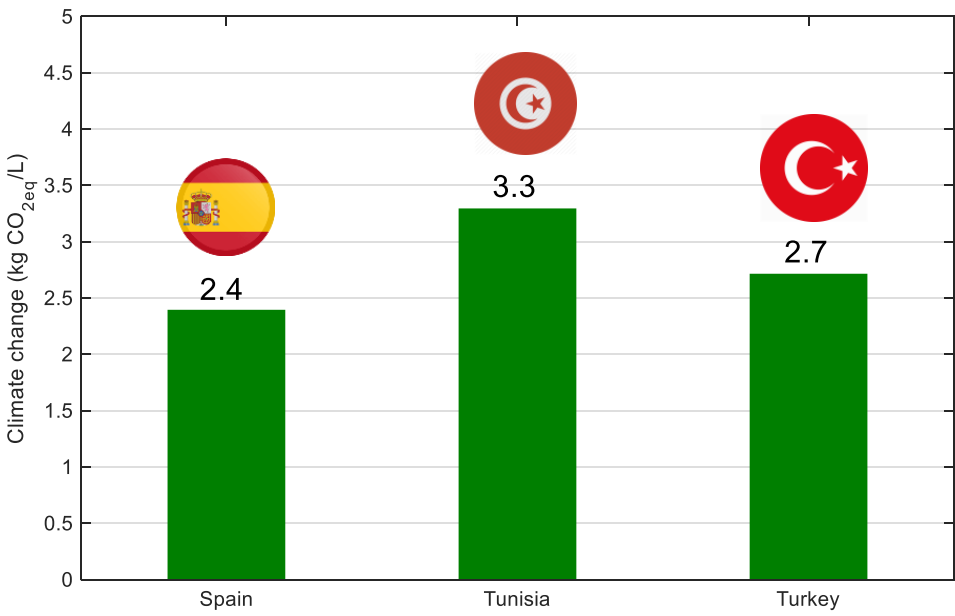
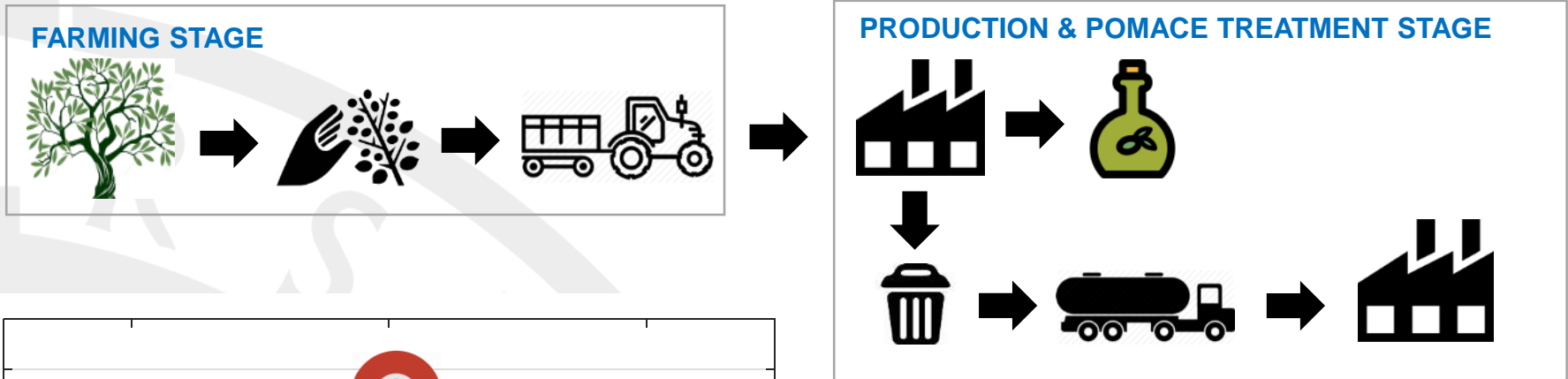
Some data reported during the last harvests



	TURKEY	TUNISIA	SPAIN
Nº of Harvests	2017-2020	2017-2020	2017-2020
Nº of farmers surveyed	45	35	62
Ha surveyed	1.500	1.000	2.000
Dryland	52 %	90 %	58 %
Irrigated	48 %	10 %	42 %
Number of mills surveyed	24	30	18
2 PHASES	33 %	10 %	100 %
3 PHASES	66 %	90 %	0

RESULTS

LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT (LCA)



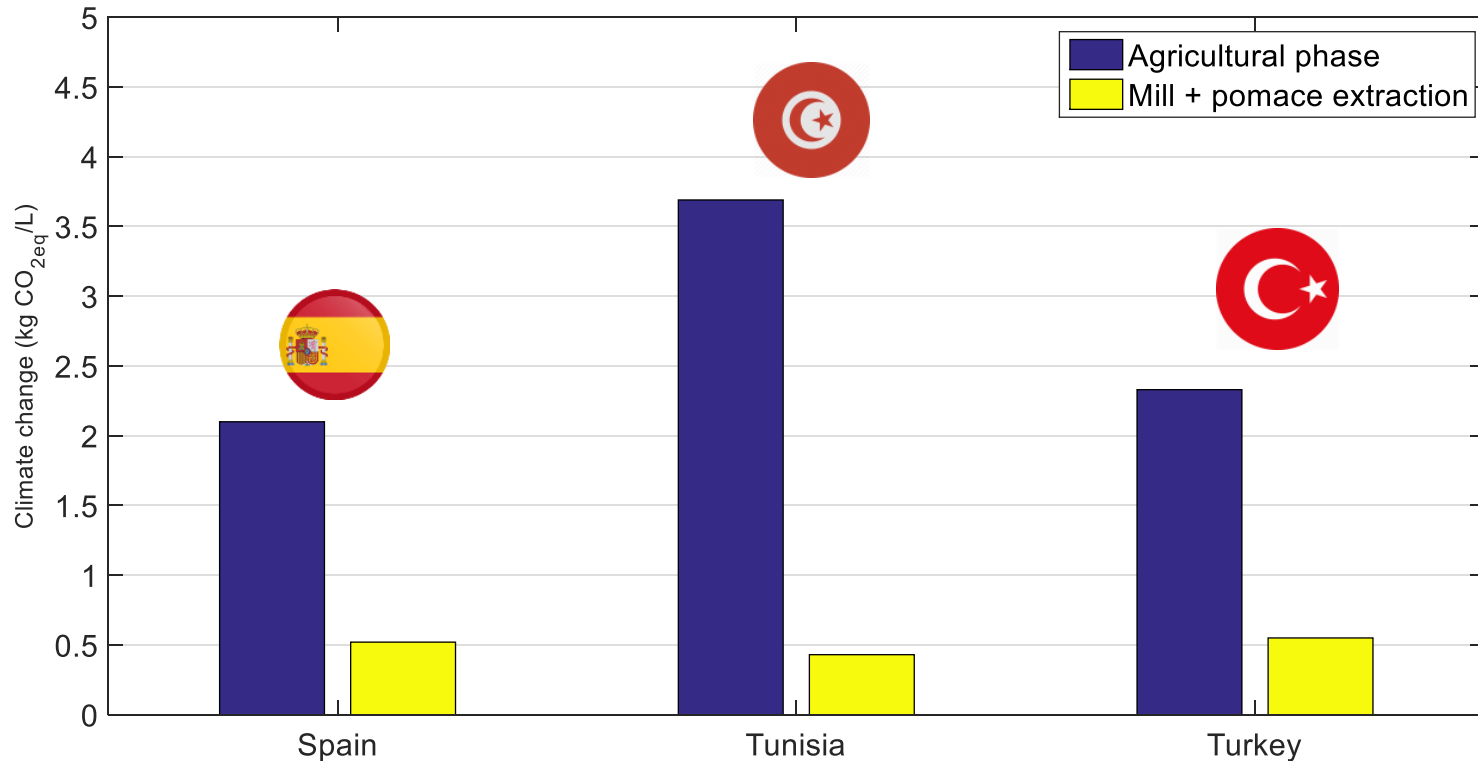
CLIMATE CHANGE INDICATOR

- **Traditional Spanish olive grove** produces the least impact in terms of greenhouse gas emissions (GWP) (2.4 kg CO₂eq/L of virgin olive oil).
- In 2nd place **Turkey (2,7 kg CO₂eq/L)** → **Intensive olive grove**
- In 3rd place **Tunisia (3.3 kg CO₂eq/L)** → **Traditional rainfed**

RESULTS

LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT (LCA)

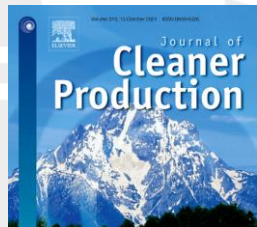
- **Agricultural phase** is the most harmful phase in the whole value chain with around **80% of weight** (Climate Change indicator).
- **Fertilizers + Pesticides + Herbicides > 50%**



RESULTS

LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT (LCA)

Traditional Spanish olive grove presents the best value of carbon footprint (reducing of the GHG emissions) → better than the intensive farming's



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Journal of Cleaner Production

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/jclepro



Life cycle assessment of the Spanish virgin olive oil production: A case study for Andalusian region

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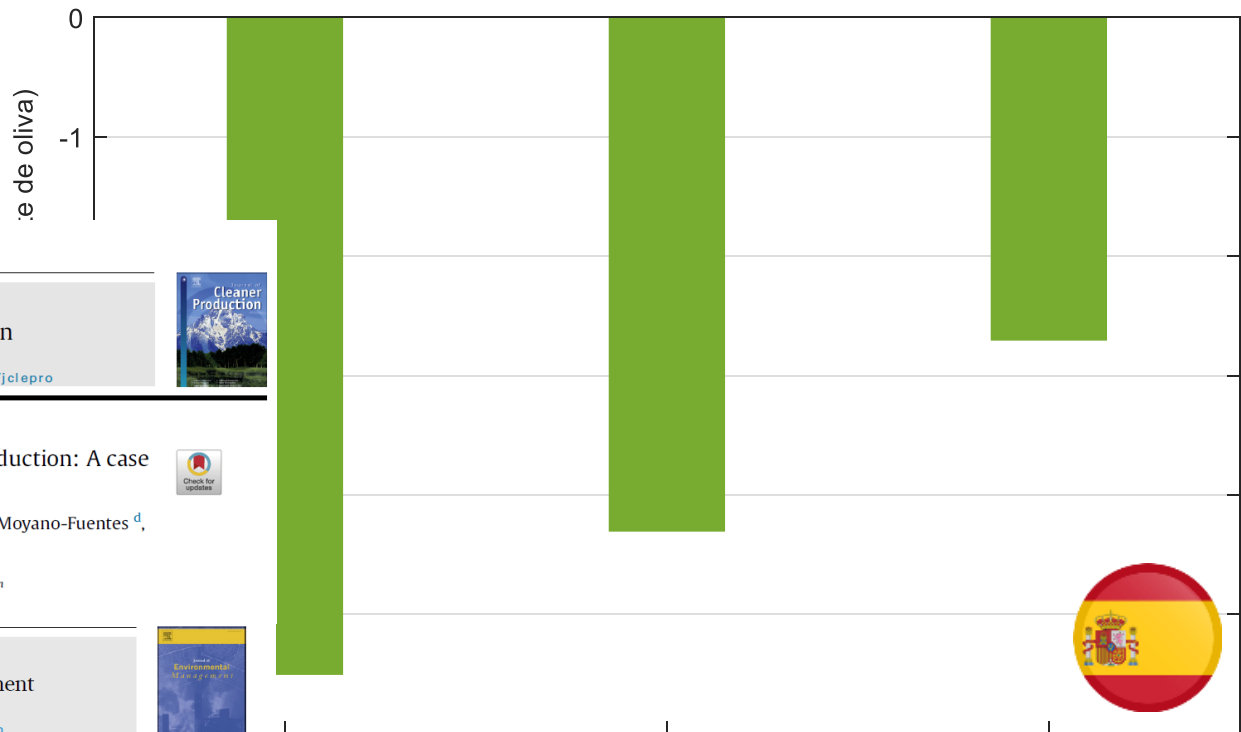
journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/jenvman



Life cycle assessment, C footprint and carbon balance of virgin olive oils production from traditional and intensive olive groves in southern Spain

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Cultivo seco

Tradicional regadío

Cultivo intensivo



RESULTS

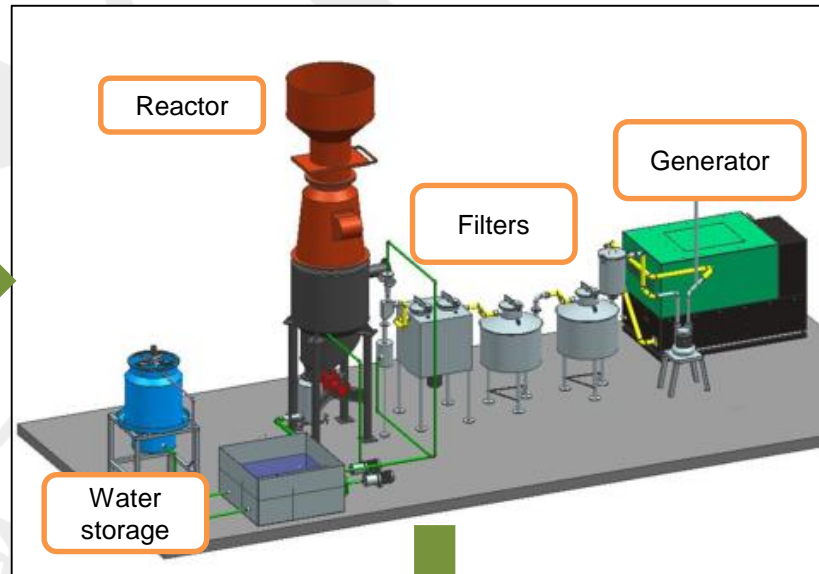
TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

- Demonstration of a **gasification plant** in a real scenario (olive mill) → IFAPA
- OBJECTIVE → Technology transfer for stakeholders and economic study of the plant

ORUJILLO



PODA OLIVAR



Access to new markets for stakeholders

- Renewable electricity**
Direct reduction of bills (> 75%)
- Heat**
(Mill owners can dry the olive pomace in-situ)
- Biochar production**
(Soil amendment)



CARBON FOOTPRINT REDUCTION



ECO-LABEL



RESULTS

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER → GASIFICATION PLANT



Junta de Andalucía

Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Desarrollo Sostenible

INSTITUTO DE INVESTIGACIÓN Y FORMACIÓN AGRARIA Y PESQUERA



- DEMO Plant installed in a **real scenario** (IFAPA) → 2 years (2022)
- More than **1.000 h of operating** (we started on June 2020),
- Successful operation of the system with **syngas (free of tars)**
- **STUDY** of the **biochar application** in the olive grove (IFAPA)

RESULTS



OLIVE POMACE VALORIZATION PLANT

PLANTA DE GASIFICACIÓN

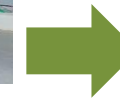
Orujillo graso pelletizado (15% humedad)



Electricidad Renovable (500 kWe)



Biochar (700 ton/año)



Agua caliente a batidoras o bodega (frío)



Gases de combustión motor

Trómel de secado

Balsa alperujo



20.000 ton/año (9 meses)



Orujillo graso (15% Humedad)

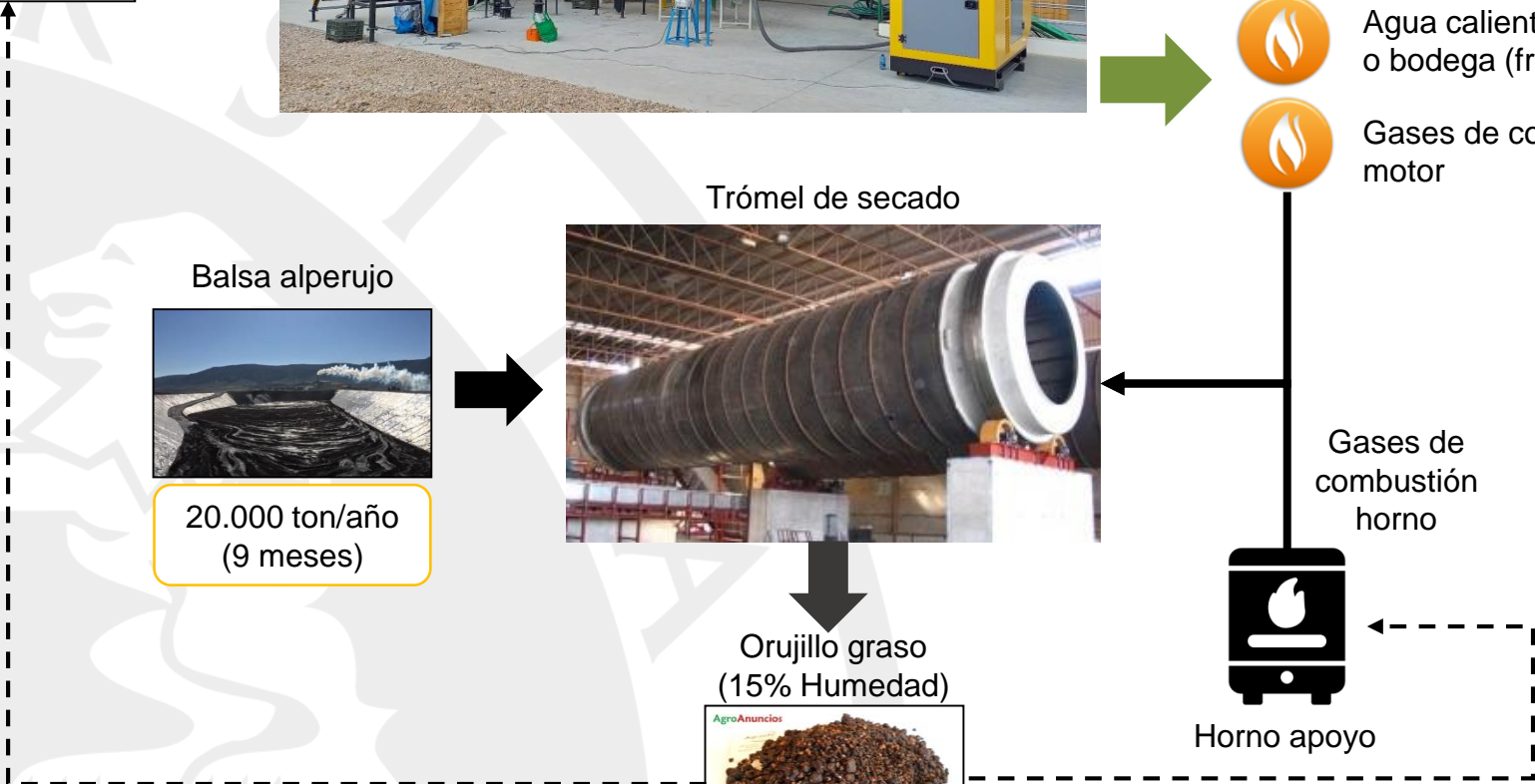


Gases de combustión horno



Horno apoyo

Orujillo graso



RESULTS

ECONOMIC STUDY

TOTAL INVESTMENT COSTS	950.000 – 1.200.000 €
GRANT (30 %, CDTI Project)	280.000 – 360.000 €
INITIAL PAYMENT (15%)	140.000 – 180.000 €
LOAN (0% + €, a pagar en 10 años a partir del 2º año)	530.000 – 660.000€
TOTAL PAYMENT (in 10 years)	670.000 – 840.000 €

Economic scenarios (grant = 30%)	Payback (years)
WORST case	5-6
MEDIUM	4-5
BEST	3-4

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- **Reduction of electricity bill (>75%)**
- **Reduction of olive pomace transport costs**
- Hueso de aceituna
- **Biochar**



CONCLUSIONS

- **ENVIRONMENTAL** → Carbon Footprint reduction of the whole value chain
 ✓ OLIVEN > 20-25 % reduction in the Climate Change indicator (GWP)



- **ELECTRICITY BILL SAVINGS FOR MILL OWNERS AND EXTRACTORS** > 75 %



- **DIRECT OLIVE POMACE (ALPERUJO) DRYING** → transport costs



- **BIOCHAR** → New business models



150-250 €/ton

- **OLIVE PIT SAVING** (hot water available in the malaxing stage)



- **OLIVE PIT CLEANING AND DRYING** → increasing of the sale price (90-100 €/ton)

- **ECOLABEL**



- **REDUCTION OF THE PRODUCTION COSTS** > 10 %

Questions?

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Thanks for your attention!