



Start date:  
2013

ONGOING

SPAIN

# España Organica

Almond orchards planted as part of the project

## Restoring ecosystems and promoting economic prosperity with farmers of La Mancha



PROJECT OFFICER, EUROPE  
**Maximilien Simon**

### PROJECT TYPES

 Agroforestry



La Mancha

### FARM PRODUCTIONS

-  Almond
-  Olive
-  Pistachio

### ACTIVITIES

- Agroforestry: biodiversity hedges with perennial crops
- Agroecological practices: organic farming, cover crops, beehives, etc.



## Context

Farming is the main economic activity in la Mancha region, located in the center of Spain. But agricultural activities are severely restricted by the harsh environmental conditions of extreme dry summers followed by cold and icy winters.

**Villacañas**, a town of about 10 000 inhabitants, had a thriving wooden door industry until 2008, when the economic crisis hit, leading to the closure of factories and subsequent high unemployment rates. After the crisis, many unemployed people decided to return to their family farms to find a new livelihood in farming.

**PUR Projet** and **Fundación Global Nature (FGN)**, a Spanish nongovernmental organization specialized in developing sustainable agricultural activities, conserving biodiversity and restoring habitats, are operating the **España Organica** project since 2013.

The project provides funds to organic or in transition farmers, in and around Villacañas, looking to plant productive and biodiversity trees within their farms.



## Key goals

- **Support farmers** with new income generation through productive tree planting.
- **Preserve local biodiversity** through habitats restoration.
- **Promote sustainable agricultural practices** with trainings on specific topics such as organic farming or green cover implementation.



Vincente Simon Tajuelo next to an almond tree planted with the project

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

España Organica project seeks to support the following Sustainable Development Goals as set by the United Nations.





Angel Irala Cruza posing in front of its orchard and beehives implemented with the project

“My son loves agriculture. He has decided to manage his own field. With the project he has planted pistachios and olive trees in organic farming.”

— Mari Carmen, mother of a participating farmer in 2017



53 627

Trees planted so far



294

Hectares of parcels impacted by the project



138

Farmers involved



36

Species planted

## 2019 activities – Focus on cover crop

Following 2018's work on cover crops and as part of the project, Fundación Global Nature reengaged farmers in adopting the implementation of green cover on their orchards.

After trainings done by FGN, 2 farmers reengaged and a new farmer experimented it on his farm for the first time. Several benefits are expected on the long term: better soil structure, less erosion, reduced evaporation, nitrogen fixation...



Cover crop implementation with a seeder

“We have olive, pistachio and almond trees, almost all our farm is organic farming permanent crops. This year we have planted olives, and we received technical advice and support for the plantation from technicians of FGN, otherwise we couldn't have planted these trees”

— Carmen Simón, participating farmer in 2019

### Local partner



### Key funder



We estimate that for 1,000 planted trees the results could be:

CLIMATE



385

Total estimated tCO2 removed from the atmosphere in the long term (LT)



17

tCO2 removed from the atmosphere/year



181

tCO2 removed from the atmosphere until now, if the plantation was in 2010

SOIL



6.1

Hectares of soil being restored



TWO TIMES

Increase of earthworms in the long term

SOCIAL



4

Farmers involved

BIODIVERSITY



36

Different species planted or cultivated (minimum)



67%

Increase bird species in the long term



80%

Increase of pollinator insects in the long term

## Tree species

Most common species planted list.



**ALMOND TREE**

*Prunus dulcis*



**PISTACHIO TREE**

*Pistacea vera*



**OLIVE TREE**

*Olea europea*



**PERSIAN WALNUT**

*Juglans regia*



**GREEN OAK**

*Quercus ilex*



**COMMON MYRTLE**

*Myrtus communis*



**DOG ROSE**

*Rosa canina*



**BOXTHORN**

*Lycium intricatum*



**ROSEMARY**

*Rosmarinus officinalis*



**LAURUSTINE**

*Viburnum tinus*



**FRENCH  
TAMARISK**

*Tamarix gallica*



**WHITE MULBERRY**

*Morus alba*



Seedlings are planted with protection to avoid rodents damages.