

## 1. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF OLIVE GROWING IN SLOVENIA

### 1.1. Introduction



**Figure 1.** Location of Slovenia (Source: UN)

In Slovenia, the potential for olive cultivation is limited to a narrow zone of the country. Olive groves are located mainly in the area of Slovenian Istria and parts of Primorje with a sub-Mediterranean climate.

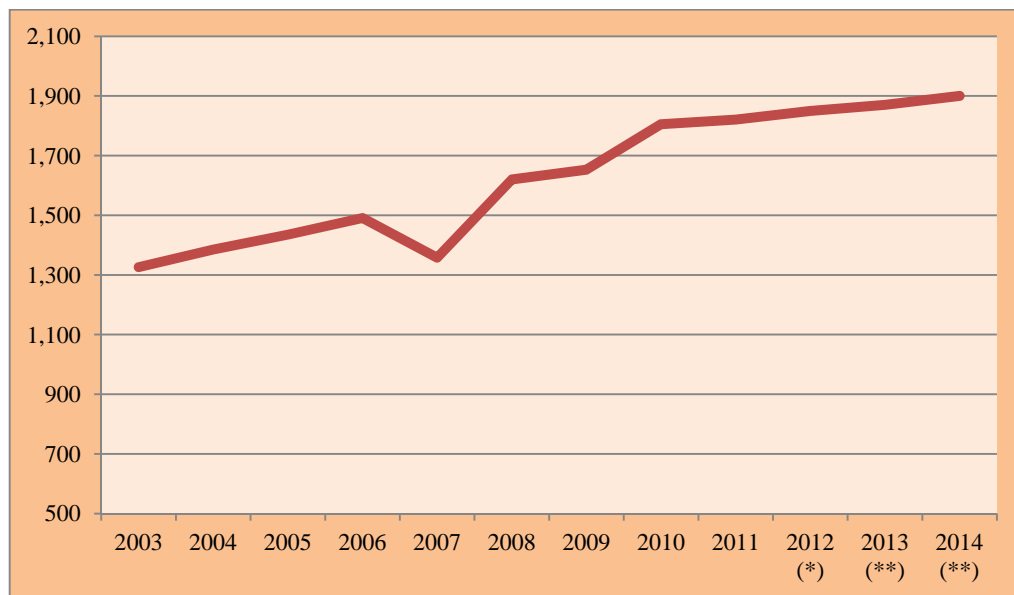
In the last century, olive growing felt the brunt of the First World War and more recently was affected by many frosts in the 1990s. However, it has now been expanding through the establishment of intensive, mechanised orchards. In 2009, olives were cultivated on 1 653 ha.

### 1.2. Socio-economic indicators

- **Area:** 20 273 sq km (UN, 2008)
- **Capital city:** Ljubljana (UN)
- **Currency:** Euro (EUR) (UN, 2009)
- **Population:** 2 043 241 (World Bank, 2009)
- **Urban population:** 48% (World Bank, 2010)
- **Rural population:** 52% (World Bank, 2010)
- **Population growth rate:** 0.2 % (UN, 2010/15)
- **Life expectancy:** 75.4 years (men), 82.6 years (women) (UN, 2010/15)
- **Main exports by quantity:** raisins (FAOSTAT, 2009)
- **Main imports by quantity:** wheat (FAOSTAT, 2009)
- **GNI per capita, PPP (current international \$):** 26 660 (World Bank, 2010)
- **GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):** 27 063 (World Bank, 2010)
- **Employment in agriculture:** 9% (World Bank, 2009)
- **Employees in agriculture, female:** 9% (World Bank, 2009)
- **Employees in agriculture, male:** 9% (World Bank, 2009)

## 2. BACKGROUND DATA

### 2.1. Total area planted



**Figure 4.** Changes in area planted with olive trees (ha)

\* Estimates

\*\* Forecasts (Source: IOC)

### 3. OLIVE INDUSTRY IN SLOVENIA

#### 3.1. Orchard resources and location

The olive tree is a feature of the landscape and heritage of Slovenia where olive oil is appreciated for its taste and nutritional and health benefits. Nevertheless, the olive/olive oil sector as a whole accounts for a minimal 0.38% share of Slovenia's final agricultural production and olive growing is limited to the areas on and near the Adriatic coast, i.e. it covers a very limited area between Stanjel, Sezana and Koper where vines are also cultivated.

Since 2010, crop area has topped 1 800 ha and is forecast to reach 1 900 ha by 2014.

Looking at the figures for the reference year used in the IOC questionnaire (2009), it emerges that of the 1 653 ha dedicated to olive cultivation, 1 620 ha were dry farmed and 15 ha were irrigated. Average density varied from 330 trees/ha in rainfed groves to 318 trees/ha in irrigated areas.

In the same year, olive orchards were grown on 893 agricultural holdings. Three categories emerge when olive resources are itemised by orchard age:

- Young orchards (< 5 years old): 119 ha (16%)
- Orchards at full bearing (5–50 years old): 556 ha (76%)
- Old orchards (> 50 years old): 59 ha (8%)

(Source: IOC questionnaire)

#### 3.2. Varieties

*Bianchera* is the most noteworthy local variety, and the one grown the most for oil production in Koper.

It is vigorous, has an erect growth habit and is very hardy. Its start of bearing is intermediate. It flowers early and it is partially self-compatible. Its productivity is high and constant. The fruit ripens late and has a high removal force. It has a high content of oil, which is rated very highly.

It shows a good tolerance of sea winds, cold calcareous soils and severe pruning. It is particularly sensitive to olive moth and olive fly, whereas it is tolerant of olive leaf spot and olive knot.

(Source: World Catalogue of Olive Varieties, IOC)

#### 3.5. Production and yield

The volume of olive oil produced in Slovenia is still very small because new plantations have not yet reached optimal performance. Crop yields in 2009/10 averaged 2 400 kg/ha for oil-olives.

In the same crop year, domestic olive oil production totalled 700 t. This was not enough to meet domestic consumption requirements, which reached 2 000 t. (IOC database).

According to the completed IOC questionnaire, Slovenia has 18 registered oil mills plus a further 70 small, non-registered units.

(Source: IOC questionnaire)

### ***3.7. Marketing, domestic consumption and foreign trade***

As mentioned above, domestic olive oil production in recent years has not been enough to satisfy domestic demand. The difference is therefore made up by imports from neighbouring Italy (829 t in 2010) (Source: EUROSTAT, 2010).

In 2009/10, Slovenia consumed 2 000 t of olive oils and 1 000 t of table olives. In 2010, per capita consumption came to 1.1 kg for olive oil and 0.45 kg for table olives.

(Source: IOC questionnaire)

## **4. SOURCES**

**IOC questionnaire**

**IOC database**

<http://www.internationaloliveoil.org/estaticos/view/130-survey-and-assessment-division>

**United Nations**

<http://data.un.org/Default.aspx>

**World Bank**

<http://data.worldbank.org/country>

**FAOSTAT**

<http://faostat.fao.org/site/342/default.aspx>