



IOC

INTERNATIONAL OLIVE COUNCIL **NEWSLETTER**

Nº 168

NOVEMBER 2021

CONTENTS ENGLISH





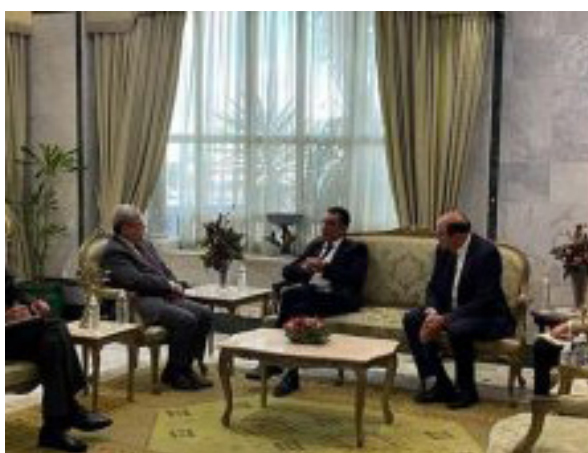
IN THIS ISSUE

- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MEETS TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER IN TUNIS
- PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY – MARIO SOLINAS QUALITY AWARD 2021
- IOC-TUNISIA: STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
- CERTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR OLIVE TREE PLANTS
- PANDOLEA HOLDS THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
- MISSION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PAKISTAN
- FIRST RESULTS OF THE IOC MISSION TO PAKISTAN
- PAKISTAN MOVES CLOSER TO THE IOC
- PAKISTANI RESEARCH PUSHES FOR IOC MEMBERSHIP
- A SUCCESSFUL MISSION TO PAKISTAN
- INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON OLIVE OIL & HEALTH
- STANDARDISATION AND RESEARCH UNIT: ONGOING ACTIVITIES
- OLIVE GROWING AND OLIVE OIL TECHNOLOGY MASTER'S THESIS: 2020/21 EDITION
- THIRD CONSORTIUM OF THE EU GEN4OLIVE PROJECT
- OLIVE OIL IMPORTS BY EUROPEAN UNION (UE27)
- WORLD TRADE IN OLIVE OIL AND TABLE OLIVES



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MEETS TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER IN TUNIS

TUNIS / Executive Director Abdellatif Ghedira meets Tunisian Foreign Minister Othman Jerandi in Tunis. The IOC delegation was on an official working visit to Tunisia, as part of its institutional mandate, during the 15th edition of SIAMAP 2021.



The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Tunisians Abroad, **H.E. Othman Jerandi**, welcomed **Abdellatif Ghedira**, Executive Director of the International Olive Council, and **Mounir Fourati**, the Head of the External Relations Department of the IOC, at the ministry's headquarters. The IOC delegation was on an official working visit to Tunisia, as part of its institutional mandate, during the 15th edition of SIAMAP 2021, the international exhibition of agriculture, agricultural machinery and fishing. At the meeting, the Minister stressed the impor-

tance of strengthening cooperation with the IOC for Tunisia, given the considerable economic, commercial and societal role of the olive sector in Tunisia.

The Executive Director explained the activities and initiatives implemented by the Council to support cooperation between Member States and the challenges facing the sector. He stressed the importance of Tunisia following the major transformations that characterise the international olive oil market due to globalization. Mr Ghedira also recalled the importance of the unanimous commitment of the Tunisian delegation to the next session of the Council of Members of the IOC, which will be held in Georgia from 24 to 26 November 2021. He encouraged Tunisia to strengthen partnerships between its professionals and emerging countries in the olive sector to expand the network of contacts and ensure collaboration through the exchange of technical and scientific information at international level.

The Minister thanked the Executive Director for his commitment at the head of the Organisation and confirmed Tunisia's willingness to continue to support the national olive sector and to assist the IOC, its sister countries and friends, by offering Tunisian know-how on olive issues.

PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY – MARIO SOLINAS QUALITY AWARD 2021

On 28 October 2021, the Executive Secretariat held the award ceremony for the Mario Solinas Quality Award 2021 by video conference with simultaneous interpretation.



The IOC award is an institutional, non-profit competition that aims to encourage olive growers to produce extra virgin olive oils with harmonious organoleptic characteristics and to encourage consumers to recognise and appreciate the sensory attributes of such oils.



In the 21st edition, entries were classified into one of five categories: robust; medium and delicate green fruitiness; ripe fruitiness; and extra virgin olive oil from the southern hemisphere.

Executive Director **Abdellatif Ghedira** opened the ceremony and highlighted the importance of this competition, congratulating all winners and finalist. The ceremony continued with a brief description of the competition rules by the Deputy Executive Director **Jaime Lillo**.

Mercedes Fernandez, the Head of the Standardisation and Research Unit, presented the international panel of this edition, the winners and finalists, giving a detailed description of the sensory characteristics of the winning oils. During the ceremony, short videos that the winners and finalists had made on their production of extra virgin olive oils were showed to the guests.



IOC-TUNISIA: STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

TUNIS / Returning from the diplomatic mission to Pakistan, the Executive Director, **Abdellatif Ghedira**, and the Head of the External Relations Department, Mounir Fourati, reached Tunis for an official meeting with the Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries, Mahmoud Elias Hamza.



The meeting was very cordial and the working session with the IOC Executive Secretariat was fruitful. At the end of the meeting, an official note from the Tunisian government detailed the topics discussed. In particular, the current situation and prospects for international cooperation with the Tunisian government were discussed. The officials also discussed the upcoming participation of the Tunisian delegation at the 114th session of the Council of Members in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 24, 25 and 26 November 2021.

The Minister was also informed of the modalities of IOC support to the Training Centre of the National Olive Oil Board. Preparations for Tunisia's participation in the 21st edition of Expoliva in 2023 were also on the agenda of the meeting, as Tunisia will be the guest of honour at the event. The visit of the IOC representatives to the Tunisian government also confirmed the mutual interest in strengthening cooperation in the field of scientific research at the international level.

"These issues are all very topical," the Executive Director said in a statement, "as they are common interests already provided for in the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives, which the Executive Sec-



retariat is tasked with supporting and promoting to member countries to strengthen their presence and that of the IOC standard in international markets.”

CERTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR OLIVE TREE PLANTS



CORDOBA / The International Olive Council (IOC) network of germplasm banks, the True Healthy Olive Cultivars (THOC) Project and the World Catalogue of the main genetically authenticated olive tree varieties.

The IOC has gathered representatives from its member-countries at the University of Córdoba (UCO) for a workshop from 25 to 29 October 2021. The aim of the workshop is to strengthen and harmonise a certification system for olive plant trees so that producers and farmers can guarantee that the vegetable material they work with is true to type and healthy. The workshop will address one of the most important issues facing the olive sector and therefore also our Institution today.

The production of olive plants without certification may result in the dissemination of pest and diseases and mistaken varieties that do not meet requirements entering plantations.



The workshop was opened by **Enrique Quesada Moraga, the Vice-Recto for Research and Territorial Development of the UCO**, and **Jaime Lillo López, Deputy Executive Director of the IOC**. They were joined by Luis Rallo Romero, the coordinator of the IOC network of olive germplasm banks; Abdelkrim Adi, the Head of the Olive Growing, Olive Oil Technology and Environment Unit of the IOC; Catarina Bairrao Balula, the Head of the Technical Cooperation and Training Department; Pablo Morello Parra, the Head of the Olive Oil Technology and Environment Department; and officials from the IOC olive germplasm banks.

The meeting was held collaboratively, thus intensifying links between the IOC network of banks through the True Healthy Olive Cultivars (THOC) project and the World Catalogue of the main genetically authenticated olive tree varieties.

As it is well known, the IOC has been promoting a network of banks containing olive genetic material since 1994. These banks aim to preserve the heritage of olive varieties grown in countries around the world.

The IOC network currently includes 23 banks in as many countries and three international collections (Córdoba, Spain; Marrakech, Morocco; and Izmir, Turkey) that preserve all the varieties of the network located in the different countries in the three different climatic zones.

The THOC project intends to provide authenticated and healthy initial material of the main commercial varieties of each country on the IOC network of germplasm banks.

Authentic and healthy varieties will be provided to banks to be preserved as initial material in the corresponding isolated conservatories.

This step is the starting point for certification protocols for nursery stock.

The certification system aims to ensure that varieties traded internationally are authentic and free from pathogens, in line with the recommendations and regulations issued by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) and the EU.

PANDOLEA HOLDS THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The worldwide network of women in olive oil is going from strength to strength. Pandolea held its third international conference on 15 October 2021, an important moment in building female entrepreneurship in the global olive sector. The IOC gave its institutional patronage to the event. After the welcome address by



President Loriana Abbruzzetti, the Executive Director of the IOC, Abdellatif Ghedira, gave a speech (published below) to open the morning session of the conference. Another member of the Executive Secretariat gave a speech in the afternoon session: Catarina Bairrao Balula, Head of the Technical Cooperation and Training Department. An extract of her speech can be found below.

Morning session: opening. The speech of Mr. **Abdellatif Ghedira**. "Presidents and members of rural women's associations around the world, Dear Participants. First, I would like to thank **Madame Abbruzzetti** for organizing the 3rd Sustainable Development Conference under the subject of women's entrepreneurship. I had the honor to meet Loriana for the first time 5 years ago in Rome, she introduced me her non-profit association and I quickly understood her real conviction as regard the important role that women can play for the development of the olive oil sector. Without any hesitation, I supported Pandolea therefore she participated in several meetings of the council of members of our organization as well as the advisory committee in order to convey her noble message on reinforce women's role in the development of the culture of consumption of extra virgin olive oil.



Several countries have followed this initiative and Loriana did not hesitate to share her knowledge, work and experience and to promote international collaboration. Today we witness the participation and involvement of 11 national and international institutions and networks of rural women from several IOC member countries, which demonstrates the success of pandolea's action for almost 20 years. Once again, I would like to congratulate Loriana for her continuous efforts to persevere our culture and work for the good of our environment and our health.

As you know, the IOC is an international organisation under the auspices of the United Nations, with 60 years of experience in the development of the olive sector throughout the world. We currently have 18 members including the European Union and we represent about 94% of world production.

One of the objectives of the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives is to promote the consumption of olive oil and Catarina will tell you more about our organization and the Executive Secretariat of which about 50% of the officials are women.

Dear participants, as you know, olive oil is one of the sectors that contributes to sustainable development through its preservation of natural resources. I would also point out that 1 kg of extra virgin olive oil contributes to the sequestration of more than 10 kg of carbon dioxide, which is one of the highest rates of sequestration for tree crops.



On the other hand, the latest studies conducted by the IOC have shown a fall in olive oil consumption in producing countries against an increase in consumption in consumer countries.

It was also observed that olive oil consumption increased during the confinement period. The main reason is the return to home cooking and the significant reduction of consumption in restaurants. Home cooking is based on healthy products and olive oil is at the top of this chain.



Our culture and culinary traditions must be encouraged, and it is this education that the women's olive oil networks must reinforce for our health and our environment. I count on all of you to strengthen this reflection and work together as said Loriana for our health and that of future generations.

"Thank you very much".

Afternoon session – The Conference counted also with the participation of many other entities and individuals, from many producer and non-producer countries. The IOC was also represented by its head of the technical cooperation and training department, **Catarina Bairrao Balula**, that talked on female cooperation in the olive sector, and underlined some initiatives that *promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all* – the goal 8 of the 2030 agenda.



She also stressed that women-lead initiatives have a collaborative spirit, open mind and a woman's heart in common, and convert creative ideas into business opportunities – *female entrepreneurship!*

She reminded that role of the IOC as a world forum for discussing policymaking issues and tackling present and future challenges. She also underlined that the IOC is ready to support this worldwide chain

for the women in the olive sector, fostering non-profit women-led initiatives in order to provoke change in olive-dependent communities, creating new opportunities for development and pursuing equal treatment for all.



MISSION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO PAKISTAN



ISLAMABAD / On the first day of his official visit to Pakistan, the Executive Director Abdellatif Ghedira agreed to pay an unscheduled visit to an olive nursery on the outskirts of Islamabad. The IOC delegation were accompanied by Dr **Muhammed Kakar**.



On arrival, the IOC representatives were welcomed by Pakistani officials involved in the development programme of the country's olive sector. During the visit, they were shown a sizeable area where healthy and varied seedlings were being produced and at an advanced stage. The plantation was composed of olive varieties from several countries: France, Greece, Italy, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey.

The Executive Director congratulated the promoters of this ambitious plan, while noting the opportunity to complement the knowledge of technicians to improve the management of olive groves. He offered the expertise and know-how of the IOC to ensure the success of the project.



The Pakistani party thanked the Executive Director for his involvement in this endeavour and confirmed their desire to see Pakistan join the Organisation as soon as possible. They also informed him of their ambition to plant 10 million olive trees in the next three years (one million trees have already been planted) and indicated that the nursery he visited would provide the bulk of the seedlings, with the collaboration of other nurseries in the country.



Technical information was exchanged, and the Ex-

ecutive Director encouraged Pakistan to continue its efforts, particularly in the areas of quality and good production practices, stressing the importance of establishing IOC-approved laboratories and tasting panels.

The delegation returned to Islamabad at daybreak.

FIRST RESULTS OF THE IOC MISSION TO PAKISTAN

ISLAMABAD / On the second day of the Executive Director's mission, the IOC held a videoconference for the diplomatic corps of the member countries and Pakistani officials involved in national plans to develop their olive sectors.



The meeting brought together the Deputy Executive Director and the Heads of the Operational Units, who presented IOC activities to officials from the Pakistani Ministry of Agriculture and ambassadors from Madrid.



At the end of the meeting, the Executive Director held a press conference to explain the purpose of his visit to Pakistan. The Pakistani officials then presented their plan to develop their olive sector and to solemnly and officially announce their willingness to join the IOC family as soon as possible.



In the early evening, the IOC delegation was invited to a reception hosted in their honour by H.E. Borhene El Kamel, Ambassador of Tunisia to Pakistan. Several officials from the Pakistani Ministry of Agriculture and Foreign Affairs as well as representatives from the private sector accepted the invitation. The Ambassadors of Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Palestine were also present.

This reception provided an opportunity to deepen talks with the Pakistani party, to reinforce their approach and to assure them of the IOC's assistance.

At the time of departure, the Tunisian Ambassador asked the Executive Director to do him the honour of planting an olive tree in the garden of his residence. The appointment was set for Sunday 24 October 2021.

PAKISTAN MOVES CLOSER TO THE IOC



ISLAMABAD / Mission of the Executive Director to Pakistan (III) – On the third day of his mission to Pakistan, the Executive Director and the Head of the External Relations Department of the IOC Executive Secretariat were received by H.E. Fakher Imam, Federal Minister for Food Security and Research of Pakistan. During their two-hour meeting, they discussed the state of the agriculture and food sector as well as the development plan for the olive sector.

The Minister emphasised two subjects to which he attached great importance: the training of experts and technology transfer. The Executive Director concurred, stressing the importance of human resources before embarking on such ambitious projects.



The two officials agreed on the procedure for Pakistan to accede to the IOC. The Minister expressed his country's determination to complete the required steps quickly and indicated that all parties concerned were committed to achieve this goal.

Gifts were exchanged at the end of the meeting.

The IOC delegation then visited the National Advanced Institute of Genome and Biotechnology. The officials presented their work on sequencing and DNA research of olive varieties planted in Pakistan and their identification.

The Executive Director congratulated the team that had implemented the programme and already identified a large number of varieties, both local and imported.

In the afternoon, they visited Pak Olive, the government unit in charge of the plan to develop the olive sector in Pakistan. The visit to the premises demonstrated the efforts made by this institution in terms of project management, communication, encouraging farmers to plant olive trees, attempts to produce small quantities of packaged products and especially developing new products from the olive tree, such as cosmetics or olive leaf tea.

The Executive Director was positively surprised by their progress despite the rudimentary means employed and stated that with new technology, Pakistan would soon enter the big league. Aware of the technological gap, he called for assistance in terms of expertise and technological developments. They added that they were looking forward to their membership in the IOC to acquire new knowledge and develop their tools and production facilities.

PAKISTANI RESEARCH PUSHES FOR IOC MEMBERSHIP

CHAKWAL, PUNJAB, PAKISTAN / On the fourth day of his mission to Pakistan, the Executive Director was invited to the Barani Institute of Agricultural Research. This research centre is in Chakwal, Punjab province, a three-hour drive from Islamabad.

The IOC delegation was welcomed by the Director of the institute along with the Pak Olive team in charge of the development plan for the olive sector in Pakistan.

Before starting the visit, a press conference was set up at the request of Punjabi journalists who had come in large numbers to hear about the arrival of the Executive Director.



Questions focused on the country's capacity to engage in olive cultivation and the purpose of the Executive Director's mission to Pakistan.

The visit continued with a presentation of the institute and its research on agriculture and olive growing. The centre, which has a highly qualified team, works with modern tools and carries out important studies.



The Executive Director discussed technical and scientific issues with the scientists. The Executive Director proposed holding a videoconference in the near future to delve deeper into the topics with IOC experts.

The IOC delegation was then invited to visit the Institute's oil mill, which is equipped with two-phase extractors.

Before his departure, the Executive Director planted an olive tree in the park of the Institute.

In the afternoon, they visited a mineral salt mine in the surrounding mountains, before returning to Islamabad at nightfall.



A SUCCESSFUL MISSION TO PAKISTAN

NOWSHERA, KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA, PAKISTAN / On the last day of his mission to Pakistan, the Executive Director visited a large private olive grove in Nowshera, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, a two-hour drive from Islamabad.

The delegation and Pak Olive officials were welcomed by the owner of the property. While visiting an organic cultivation plot, they noted how healthy the trees were and that there were no diseases or pests. Both the fruit and the leaves were in good condition; they are used to prepare infusions and olive leaf tea. The Executive Director gave advice on pruning, grafting and irrigating the orchard.



The mission to Pakistan had three main objectives: to witness the implementation of the Pakistani plan to develop the olive sector; to monitor the implementation of IOC standards; and to confirm the willingness of the Pakistani authorities to join the IOC. At the end of this mission, it would be amiss not to express the delegation's appreciation to H.E. the Federal Minister for Food Security and Research of Pakistan, who, despite his ill health, insisted on welcoming the Executive Director at his home. Our sincere thanks also go to Dr Khair Muhammed Kakar, who spared no effort to assist the delegation and stayed with them throughout the mission, and to Dr Tariq Atatürk and Dr Azmet Ali Awan, who also accompanied the delegation on all its visits and took care of the logistics.

In the evening, the Executive Director took part in an unscheduled meeting with Ms Emanuela Benini, Director of the Italian Agency for Development and Cooperation (AICS). The Executive Director explained to her the overall mission of the IOC and the purpose of her visit to Pakistan.



Ms Benini informed him of the work she was doing in Pakistan. She explained that the focus of her mission was on training, especially for research centres, and that in the field of olive cultivation, her work was related to the whole value chain of the olive sector. She also referred to a project being developed with CIHAEM in Bari to provide further support and assistance to the Pakistani authorities in this area. The Executive Director welcomed this initiative and expressed his wish to see the IOC as a partner in this project. He pledged to explore ways and means to partner in this endeavour, in accordance with the procedures, and to assist the government of Pakistan in the success of its olive development plan.



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON OLIVE OIL & HEALTH

3RD INTERNATIONAL YALE SYMPOSIUM ON OLIVE OIL & HEALTH

III SIMPOSIUM INTERNACIONAL DE YALE SOBRE ACEITE DE OLIVA Y SALUD

IV CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL SOBRE ACEITE DE OLIVA, OLIVAR Y SALUD

UNIVERSIDAD DE YALE - UNIVERSIDAD DE JAÉN

9-12 Diciembre 2021



JAÉN (ANDALUSIA) / The 3rd international Yale symposium and IV congress of olive oil and health will turn Jaén into a world benchmark in research on the olive sector. The Executive Secretariat of the International Olive Oil Council will follow and disseminate the results of the work of these international events. Registration is open until 11 November.

Yale SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Universidad
de Jaén



Consejo Provincial
de Investigación en
Aceite y Alimentos de Oliva



FUNDACIÓN
DE JAÉN



The Provincial Council sponsors this congress, co-organized by the University of Jaén and the University of Yale, which will be held from December 9 to 12 next.

Through this scientific event we will learn about the latest research and studies on olive oil and health, including analysing sustainable olive growing, which is an engine of change and social transformation that generates employment and wealth, and which acts at the forefront in the fight against climate change and demographic challenges.

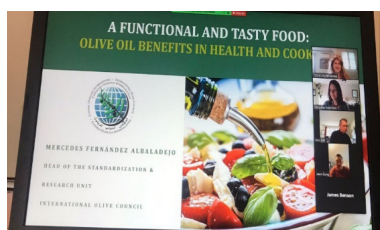
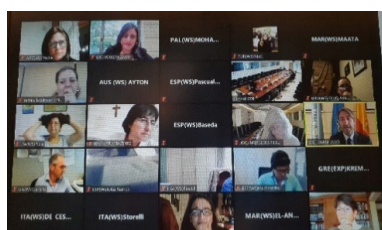
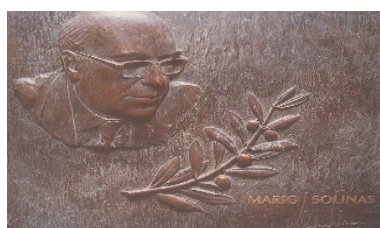
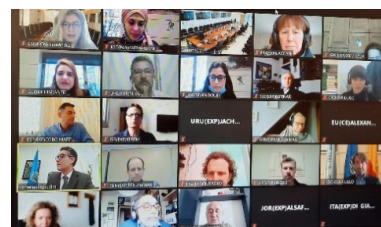
This is a major scientific event that will attract world-renowned experts from all over the world who will discuss topical issues. **Registration is open until 11 November** and further information is available at this link: <http://beolivecongress.com/>

The agenda of the symposium is available on this link also: [Programa General-3](#)



STANDARDISATION AND RESEARCH UNIT: ONGOING ACTIVITIES

In 2021, the Standardisation and Research Unit of the Executive Secretariat (ES) carried out various activities and took part in sector-related events and expressions of interest in both member and non-member countries. The Unit conducted most of the activities in the 2021 programme by videoconference due to the pandemic.



Meetings with officially appointed experts are one of the core activities of the Unit. They provide an opportunity to address various topics and discuss updates and revisions of methods and standards, including:

- Follow-up to the adoption of the IOC proposal on the World Customs Organization customs codes and explanatory notes
- Coordination of the various electronic working groups on the following subjects:
 - Collaborative testing (ethanol/methanol, stigmastadienes, phenolic compounds, ethyl esters and waxes, contaminants, pesticides...)
 - Training of tasters, accreditation, statistics, reference materials, ring tests, study of samples be-



tween limits and development of guidelines for tasting courses organised by the competent authorities with the patronage of the IOC.

- Numerous videoconferences have been scheduled with the groups to facilitate discussions and reach conclusions. The meetings in 2021 are listed below:
- The meeting of the table olives expert group was held by videoconference on 27 January 2021.
- The two meetings of the chemistry experts were held in 2021 by videoconference: on the first day, with experts officially nominated by member countries; and on the second day, with observers from non-member countries and members of the Advisory Committee. Several topics were discussed, including the ongoing collaborative trials and their findings, possible revisions of methods to be presented to the Council of Members, the revision of the Codex standard and the follow-up of ongoing standardisation activities.
- The two meetings of the Technical Commission for monitoring the competence of physico-chemical analysis laboratories were also held by videoconference. In the first meeting, the Commission organised the inter-comparison tests for the accreditation of physico-chemical analysis laboratories for the period 2021-2022. The second meeting considered the results of the 2021 inter-comparison trial and the claims received on the COI/CHEM2021 report. At these two meetings, applications for the accreditation of physico-chemical analysis laboratories were examined to verify that they met the requirements.
- Two meetings on the composition of olive oils with non-standard parameters were held in 2021 to consider various issues and future priorities regarding the composition of olive oils with the aim of ensuring harmonisation and preventing confusion in international trade.
- The two meetings of the experts on sensory analysis were also held this year by videoconference; about 40 sensory experts attended from member countries. Various topics of interest were discussed, including the progress of the electronic working groups on sensory analysis, accreditation, training and coaching of tasting panels, reference material, statistics, the revision of the Mario Solinas profile sheet and the 2022 competition rules, the rules for national competitions organised by the competent authorities with IOC, ring tests, and the harmonisation workshop for panels accredited by the IOC.
- The results of the inter-comparative tests for the accreditation of sensory analysis laboratories for the period from 1 December 2021 to 30 November 2022 were presented.
- The ES organised the 21st edition of the Mario Solinas Quality Award in which 131 oils from both member and non-member countries participated. Entries were classified into five groups, according to the value of the intensity of the median and the type of fruitiness, as follows: intense green fruitiness, medium green fruitiness, light green fruitiness, ripe fruitiness and oils from the southern hemisphere. The ES held the award ceremony by videoconference on 28 October 2021. During the ceremony, short videos



made by the winners and finalists on the production of their extra virgin olive oil were presented.

- The quality strategy meeting was held on 21 April 2021 by videoconference. The representatives of governments and ministries from member countries met to discuss strategies to revise Annex B of the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives 2015 and debate the situation on standardisation.
- The meeting of experts on the study on contaminants took place on 12 May 2021 by videoconference.
- The ES organised the second workshop on the harmonisation of IOC-accredited tasting panels; the meeting did not have registration fees and was held by videoconference with interpretation. The purpose of this theoretical-practical workshop is to minimise the differences between panels and to encourage the continued training of panel members.
- The ES also participated in the 27th session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils from 18 to 25 November 2021.
- Webinars and bilateral meetings were held with member and non-member countries.
- The ES participated in the 29th session of the ISO TC 34 SC11 Committee by videoconference from 18 to 22 November 2021.
- The 56th meeting of the Advisory Committee was held by videoconference on 22 June 2021.
- The ES participated in the 44th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission by videoconference (12-19 November 2021)
- The Unit also provided oils samples that tasting panels used for training. Requests for reference material should be sent to the ES at: iooc@internationaloliveoil.org.





The Standardisation and Research Unit has successfully completed its activities for 2021 and the results have been fruitful. All the new revisions of methods and standards can be found at the following link: <https://www.internationaloliveoil.org/what-we-do/chemistry-standardisation-unit/standards-and-methods/>.

Given the business requirements and the importance of standards, the Unit is preparing a rich programme of activities for 2022.

FOR THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE STANDARDISATION AND RESEARCH UNIT, CLICK HERE:

<https://www.internationaloliveoil.org/>

OLIVE GROWING AND OLIVE OIL TECHNOLOGY MASTER'S THESIS: 2020/21 EDITION

The four IOC scholars of the master's in olive growing and olive oil technology, 2020/21 edition, recently finished and discussed their theses. The conclusions obtained are presented in these four short articles.

STUDENT: MATÍAS ESTEVA

Supervisors: Dr Sergio Castro García, Agricultural Engineer, and Dr Alberto Facundo Vita Serman, Agricultural Engineer.

Title of the thesis: *Mechanical harvesting of table olives with a trunk shaker in the northwest of the Argentine Republic: formation and structure of the plant and adaptation of the available machinery.*

The general objective of this work is to improve the process of mechanised harvesting of table olives in the north-western region of Argentina using commercial trunk shakers in 20-year-old intensive olive groves, modifying the structure of the plant by means of pruning interventions since these plantations were not designed to be harvested with machines.

To achieve this objective, a trial was carried out to evaluate the results of trunk vibrators at different tree structures obtained by variable intensity pruning on two table olive cultivars. The intensity and frequency of vibrations caused by the harvesting head were evaluated on the trunk and in the area close to the fruit, as were the resistance of the fruit, the yield and harvesting efficiency, and the quality of the harvested fruit (ripeness index and size).



After pruning, the crown volume of the individuals in each experimental unit was calculated for 'Picual' and 'Manzanilla'. In the former, no significant difference was found ($p \leq 0.05$); whereas in 'Manzanilla', the control and the state pruning treatment resulted in similar crown volumes, ranging from 50 to 31 m³ pl⁻¹. The 'severe' pruning treatment had a lower canopy volume (up to values of 16 m³ pl⁻¹). No significant linear correlation (Pearson) was found between trunk diameter and crown volume, meaning that large trunks do not necessarily have larger crowns, as they are not free-growing trees and are subjected to pruning interventions throughout their life.

STUDENT: SAKER BEN ABDALLAH

Supervisors: Mercedes Romero Gámez and Carlos Parra López

Title of the thesis: *Analysis of the environmental impact of olive cultivation in Tunisia.*



The olive sector in Tunisia has undergone major changes in agronomic practices in recent years. High-density cropping systems are emerging as opposed to traditional low-density cropping systems. The aim of this study is to assess the environmental impact of the most representative cropping systems of current olive production in Tunisia, from the planting phase to the full production phase, covering a period of 50 years. Thus, six traditional systems, two intensive systems and one super-intensive system have been compared, considering the type of cultivation (conventional or organic), irrigation management (with or without irrigation) and fertilisation management (with or without fertilisation). The methodology used is Life Cycle Assessment (LCA). The agricultural practices analysed are soil management, fertilisers, pesticides, pruning and harvesting. The impact categories are carbon footprint, acidification, freshwater eutrophication and freshwater ecotoxicity. The results obtained refer to two functional



units: 1 tonne of olives and 1 hectare of olive grove area. The results indicate that the innovative systems (intensive and super-intensive) produce a lower environmental impact in all categories compared to the other systems from the production point of view. On the other hand, they generate a higher impact per hectare of cultivated area. Fertilisers and soil management are the agricultural practices with the highest contributions in most of the impact categories assessed. More rational olive grove management, such as integrated production, and the implementation of good practice guides and training programmes for farmers should be considered as priorities in the design of public policies to promote more sustainable olive production in Tunisia.

More details in:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0959652620345704?via%3Dihub>

STUDENT: HANDE YILMAZ DUZYAMAN

Title: *Genotype x environment interaction for traits of interest in olive breeding.*

Supervisors: Dr Lorenzo León Moreno and Dr Raúl De la Rosa Navarro.

Centre: Centre IFAPA "Alameda del Obispo", Cordoue.



Olive breeding is a long process, from cross breeding parent plants to the final selection of new varieties. It normally involves three stages: the initial seedling population, an intermediate stage with a few replicates per genotype, and a final series of comparative trials with the most promising selections. In this study, the productivity and fat yield components of genotypes from an initial seedling population and another trial from an intermediate stage of the IFAPA breeding programme were evaluated during the 2020 crop year. On the one hand, 1 081 open-pollinated seedlings of 12 varieties and one wild olive tree were evaluated, showing high variability and a wide range of transgressive individuals. A total of 150 seedlings (14% of the total population) were selected for the next stage of the breeding programme. In addition, an intermediate trial with 12 selections from previous work was evaluated. Their performance was compared in two locations

(Mengíbar and Cabra) and in two training systems (Seto and Vaso). The objective of this work was to complete the agronomic evaluation of different traits to select the most interesting genotypes for future steps and to evaluate the importance of the interaction of genotype and environment. Oil accumulation occurred



earlier in Mengibar than in Cabra and the hedge training system performed better than the vase system, but no significant genotype x location or genotype x training system interaction was found, except for dry oil content in November and early ripening. Finally, selections 117-120, 152-10, 5-65 and 142-21 were selected as potentially interesting.

STUDENT: MIGUEL BRITO E ABREU DA SILVA E SOUSA

Title: *Evaluation of the olive oil potential of the Portuguese varieties 'Cordovil de Serpa' and 'Carrasquenha de Elvas'*

In this thesis, the olive oil potential of the Portuguese varieties 'Cordovil de Serpa' and 'Carrasquenha de Elvas' was evaluated at three different times. The factors studied were: sieve diameter (5 and 6 mm), churning time (30 and 40 minutes) and churning temperature (20 and 27°C) with a factorial design. For both varieties, the fruit characteristics, extractability, quality and composition of the oil were analysed. It was observed that the fruit characteristics associated with changes during ripening had a significant influence on both extractability and oil composition in the two varieties. As for the extraction process variables, the diameter of the sieve was the variable that had the greatest influence on the characteristics of the oils. The churning time and temperature variables showed a different behaviour depending on the variety. In short, the results obtained constitute a tool for regulating the processing conditions of the fruit of the 'Cordovil de Serpa' and 'Carrasquenha de Elvas' varieties to obtain extra virgin olive oils with defined characteristics.



THIRD CONSORTIUM OF THE EU GEN4OLIVE PROJECT

CORDOBA / The Technical Unit of the International Olive Council at different events in Córdoba: Third Consortium of the Gen4olive project; VI Innovation and Transfer Plan Awards (Diego Barranco); farewell of the Head of the Technical Unit Abdelkrim Adi.

The **third meeting of the EU GEN4OLIVE project**, a project that seeks to promote activities for the genetic improvement of olive trees, took place in Córdoba from 10 to 12 November 2021.

This meeting was held at the Rectorate of the University of Córdoba (UCO). A team of 50 researchers, technicians and representatives of companies that are part of the consortium attended either in person or online. During the meeting, they analysed the progress made over the last six months and the milestones to be achieved in the next period.



The IOC is part of its Advisory Body and was represented by the staff of the Olive Growing, Olive Oil Technology and Environment Unit: Abdelkrim Adi, Catarina Bairrao and Pablo Morello.

The UCO lecturer and project coordinator, Concepción Muñoz, and the researcher in charge of project management, Hristofor Miho, were responsible for leading sessions to analyse the technical and financial progress of the project and set the work for the next nine months.



The GEN4OLIVE project involves 16 interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary partners from seven countries: France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Spain and Turkey, including the three international germplasm banks of the IOC network. This project has funding from the EU's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and has a budget of over €7 million.

GEN4OLIVE aims to leverage olive genetic resources by bringing them closer to breeders and markets. GEN4OLIVE will develop collective pre-breed-



ing activities aiming at the in-depth characterisation of over 500 worldwide varieties and 1 000 wild and ancient genotypes around five topics: climate change, pests and diseases, production, quality, and modern planting systems. After integrating the results in the GEN4OLIVE interface, breeders and other end-users will have an effective tool for speeding up all manner of breeding programmes. Combining pre-breeding results with modern ICTs will give end-users access to this valuable information. It will also enhance breeders and growers' participation through two open calls to support pre-breeding activities and breeding plans: the first is open until 30 October.

The Unit also attended the **Gala of the VI Innovation and Transfer Plan Awards of the UCO**. The event took place on 10 November 2021 at the UCO Rectorate, and Professor Diego Barranco Navero was awarded in the category of health sciences and experimental and technical branches of knowledge. The rector of the UCO, José Carlos Gómez Villamandos, presented this distinction, which recognises the trajectory of UCO researchers in carrying out activities related to innovation and the transfer of knowledge to society.

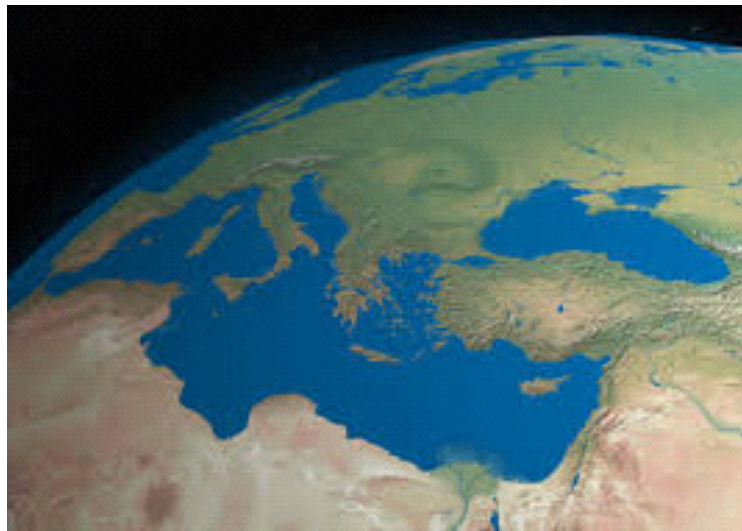
The final special event of the trip to Córdoba, in which the Technical Unit team was able to enjoy consecutive meetings, the Unit bade **farewell to its dear Head, Abdelkrim Adi**, who has come to the end of four very fruitful years of service, leaving an extraordinary legacy and important ongoing projects within the Unit.

Once again, his colleagues and friends in the Technical Unit would like to take this opportunity to give their sincere thanks and wish him the best possible professional and personal future.



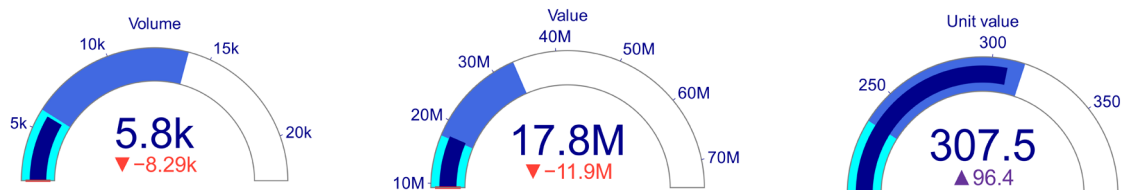
THE WORLD OF OLIVE OIL AND TABLE OLIVES

By Economic and Promotion Unit – Economic Studies and Statistics Department



FOCUS: OLIVE OIL IMPORTS BY EUROPEAN UNION (UE27)

In July of the 2020/2021 crop year, the unit value index of extra-EU olive oil imports increased by +10.3% compared to the previous month, at €275 per 100 kg (+8.7%). EU imports from Tunisia dropped to 6 472.5 tonnes (-37.8%).

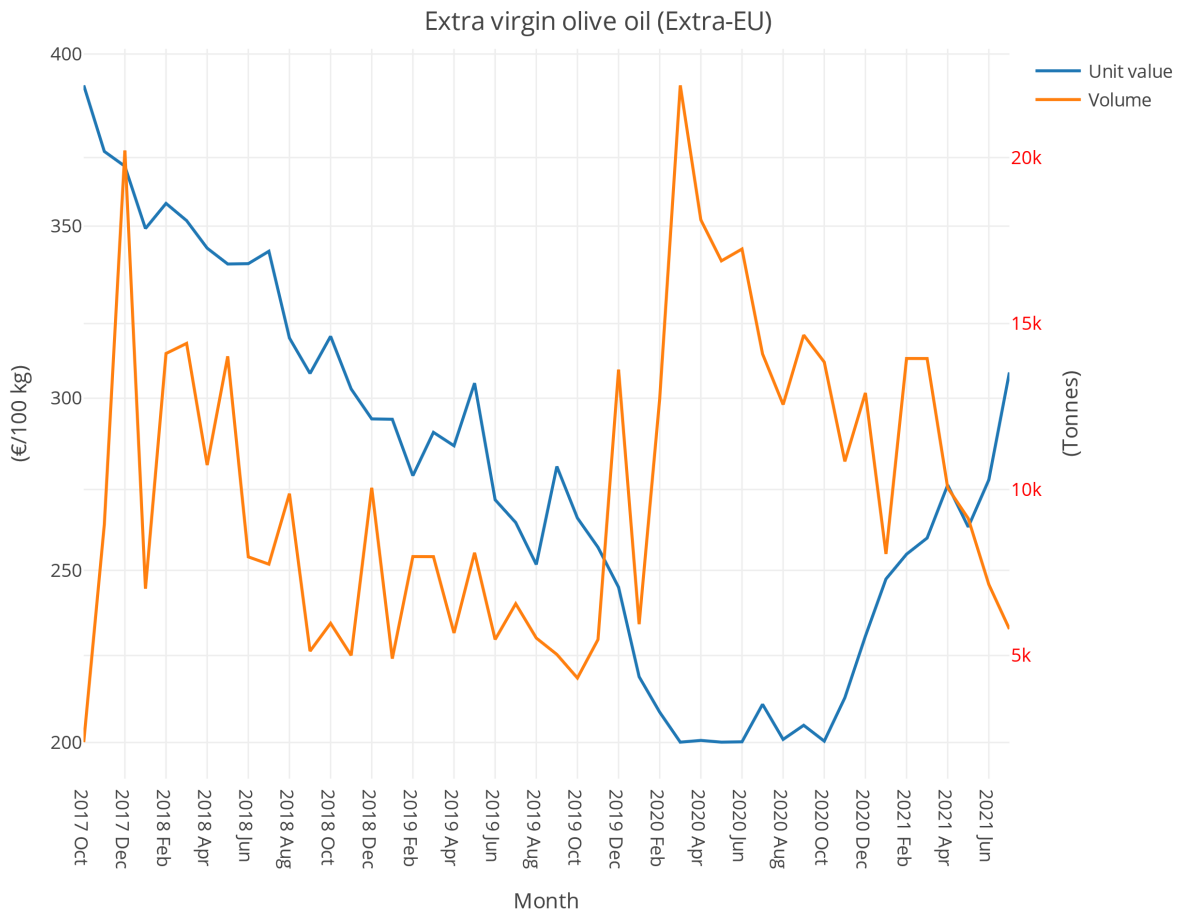


Graph 1 – Extra virgin olive oil imports in July of 2020/2021 compared to previous crop year



According to IOC estimates¹, extra-EU imports of olive oil reached 252 475 tonnes in the 2019/2020 crop year, for an estimated €493.8 million (+71.7% and +29.6% respectively compared to the previous crop year). In terms product category, 62.5% of all imports fell under the code 15091020 (extra virgin olive oil).

In July of the 2020/2021 crop year, the unit value of extra-EU imports was €275 per 100 kg (+43.3% compared to the same period the previous crop year and +8.7% compared to the previous month). The volume of imports was 8 824.9 tonnes (-58.2% compared to the same period the previous crop year and -25% compared to the previous month).



Graph 2 - Changes in the unit value and volume of extra-EU imports of extra virgin olive oil.

¹ Crop year is understood as the period from 1 September of year t to 30 October of year t+1. Data for January and February 2021 for the United Kingdom were not available. Trade value at free on board (FOB) rate. Export volume in tonnes, 1t = 1000kg = 1Mg. Values given in euros. The unit value is calculated as (value)/quantity. Sources: Own elaboration based on data from the European Commission; EUROSTAT; Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; data provided by member countries



Of the partner countries, Argentina, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey cover about 90% of extra-EU olive oil imports.

	2017/2018		2018/2019		2019/2020		2020/2021 ^(*)	
Country	VOLUME	VALUE	VOLUME	VALUE	VOLUME	VALUE	VOLUME	VALUE
Tunisia	122 663	419.2	106 753	273.1	219 727	418.9	127 849	290.4
Turkey	15 059	34.7	5 525	11.9	7 696	15.3	3 907	8.9
Argentina	10 854	50.9	5 082	12.9	7 457	15.3	4 357	9.4
Morocco	6 311	19.1	16 509	38.0	6 125	13.9	4 913	13.8
Peru	87	9.7	918	7.8	3 181	7.0	1 503	4.1
Syria	20 264	0.2	8 089	2.4	2 978	5.7	2 716	2.5
United Kingdom	2 478	3.3	2 360	6.2	2 264	5.6	1 025	5.0
Chile	903	61.2	195	24.0	868	5.1	948	4.9
Palestinian Territories	367	3.2	634	0.6	571	2.2	515	2.3
Egypt	1645	5.3	138	0.2	538	1.0	209	0.5
Uruguay	0	0.0	1	0.0	401	0.9	238	0.5
Others	1537	6.1	857	3.8	667	2.8	850	3.4
Total	182 169	612.9	147 060	381.0	252 475	493.8	149 030	345.6

Table 1 - Extra-EU imports by partner and by crop year. Volume in tonnes; value in millions. (*)2020/2021 From September to July.

Tunisia is the EU's main partner, accounting for 73.3% of imports in July. The EU imported 6 472.5 tonnes from this country in July (-62.6% compared to the same period the previous crop year and -37.8% compared to the previous month). The table below shows imports by month and by EU partner country (in tonnes).



PERIOD	TUNISIA	TURKEY	ARGENTINA	MOROCCO	PERU	SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC	EXTRA-EU
2020 Oct	16685.7	568.2	1213.2	325.9	0.0	205.3	19832.5
2020 Nov	12594.4	407.1	958.4	923.8	361.1	137.8	15783.6
2020 Dec	13728.3	230.9	675.3	769.0	64.6	73.2	16118.4
2021 Jan	9300.3	573.8	660.4	735.9	194.7	0.0	12309.0
2021 Feb	16598.7	71.3	22.0	219.0	152.3	361.1	17501.9
2021 Mar	17910.8	488.8	99.5	229.1	42.8	64.6	19278.0
2021 Apr	14156.5	388.5	0.0	276.4	259.5	194.7	15601.2
2021 May	9989.5	728.8	2.2	322.4	87.2	152.3	12018.2
2021 Jun	10412.4	244.3	44.1	454.4	42.5	42.8	11762.0
2021 Jul	6472.5	205.0	682.2	656.9	298.4	259.5	8824.9

Table 2 - Extra-EU imports by month and by partner country (tonnes).
<https://www.internationaloliveoil.org/what-we-do/economic-affairs-promotion-unit/#exports>

WORLD TRADE IN OLIVE OIL AND TABLE OLIVES

1. OLIVE OIL – 2020/21 CROP YEAR

The table below shows trade in olive oil and olive pomace oil in eight countries in the first 11 months of the current crop year (October 2020–August 2021). Imports rose by 20% in Russia, 7% in Canada and 4% in Brazil compared to the same period the previous crop year. Imports remained stable in Australia and the US but fell by 16% in Japan and 4% in China.

In the first ten months of the 2020/21 crop year, intra-EU acquisitions rose by 2% and extra-EU imports fell by 26% compared to the same period the previous crop year².

² Data for the EU were not available for August 2021 when this newsletter went to print.



Olive oil imports (including olive-pomace oils)(t)

OLIVE OIL IMPORTS (INCLUDING OLIVE POMACE OIL)(T)											
Country	OCT 19	OCT 20	NOV 19	NOV 20	DEC 19	DEC 20	JAN 20	JAN 21	FEB 20	FEB 21	MAR 20
Australia	2275.4	3353.3	2471.8	2563.6	2443.6	3377.3	3130.2	1942.9	2375.6	3708.4	2633.4
Brazil	8334.3	11052.3	10999.9	12249.6	7845.2	10356.0	8938.4	9219.6	8860.8	7230.1	11911.3
Canada	4516.1	5755.7	4001.1	5146.6	4182.1	5900.5	4104.4	5417.4	3222.5	3541.5	5877.1
China	3203.8	2588.2	6565.4	5438.5	6586.4	7785.1	3542.4	4931.3	3542.4	1974.5	2780.2
Japan	4963.1	4902.6	5298.7	6160.0	7189.2	4478.2	4643.6	3690.9	5125.7	3687.6	6332.9
Russia	3411.8	4156.7	2628.9	3908.1	2904.4	3992.3	1593.7	2220.1	2122.7	2764.4	2935.8
USA	33224.7	29339.7	22626.7	33389.2	27204.7	32336.5	23870.3	41415.3	29002.5	22794.7	32358.3
Extra-EU	13337.0	19817.7	11688.1	22010.5	17869.3	19222.7	14560.8	14900.6	21780.4	17754.0	38069.5
Intra-EU	102199.1	98528.6	100322.8	104971.3	115451.0	119103.8	98686.6	96943.8	107469.2	119629.3	112017.9
Total	180976.3	179494.7	169448.3	195837.4	194816.3	206552.4	166805.9	180682.0	181285.4	183084.4	211567.8

OLIVE OIL IMPORTS (INCLUDING OLIVE POMACE OIL)(T)											
Country	MAR 21	APR 20	APR 21	MAY 20	MAY 21	JUN 20	JUN 21	JUL 20	JUL 21	AUG 20	AUG 21
Australia	2840.9	2800.3	4202.0	4259.8	3614.2	4876.5	2263.7	4135.6	3358.0	2298.2	2311.0
Brazil	9490.6	9276.8	7354.8	8037.8	8858.7	5583.8	7257.3	8861.5	7185.4	7237.1	9606.7
Canada	4686.8	5477.6	4620.7	7404.6	8360.7	4463.3	5482.6	5698.6	3776.5	338.9	3152.9
China	3264.2	2549.1	3204.7	4602.8	4645.5	5729.5	3538.7	5480.4	5092.5	4631.2	4546.6
Japan	5915.0	6473.0	4888.5	5507.6	4429.1	8549.2	6715.7	5844.9	5095.5	6338.3	5881.6
Russia	2392.6	3061.1	3117.2	3066.7	3540.5	2690.1	3693.7	2484.2	2919.3	2700.0	2793.1
USA	29599.8	37219.0	41050.3	39718.1	41981.5	45347.2	35544.0	35315.3	23537.9	36662.7	31043.2
Extra-EU	20302.2	32500.7	21270.8	31308.2	15448.7	27564.8	12918.7	23984.3	8836.9	18294.8	N.D
Intra-EU	122183.2	102593.2	95490.3	93260.6	109237.9	97099.9	93493.2	98297.3	85892.4	77776.0	N.D
Total	200675.3	200772.0	185199.3	195238.0	200116.7	201232.4	170907.6	189777.5	145693.9	159413.7	59335.1



2. TABLE OLIVES – 2020/21 CROP YEAR

The table below shows trade in table olives over the 2020/21 crop year³ (September 2020–August 2021). Imports grew by 23% in Australia and Canada, 9% in the US and 4% in Brazil compared to the same period the previous crop year.

In the first eleven months of the 2020/21 crop year, intra-EU acquisitions fell by 5% and extra-EU imports rose by 3% compared to the same period the previous crop year⁴.

Table olive imports (t)

TABLE OLIVE IMPORTS (T)												
Country	SEP 19	SEP 20	OCT 19	OCT 20	NOV 19	NOV 20	DEC 19	DEC 20	JAN 20	JAN 21	FEB 20	FEB 21
Australia	1177.7	1590.2	1187.7	1470.6	1606.4	1671.5	1315.2	2141.9	1488.0	1538.6	1164.9	2028.3
Brazil	9869.7	14702.7	12570.2	17012.7	13466.6	14990.8	11834.1	14363.3	9248.7	9531.1	9559.4	9704.5
Canada	2310.2	4139.0	2934.7	3671.0	2863.4	4088.8	3192.4	3140.7	2594.0	3072.5	2050.4	2375.5
USA	14579.7	8942.1	14945.7	11341.4	13593.2	13197.0	11738.4	11828.2	10062.5	11664.8	9311.0	8397.8
Extra-EU	6993.8	8372.4	8276.1	10867.0	9150.1	10492.1	9325.1	10589.1	9118.0	8569.6	8639.8	7817.1
Intra-EU	26166.8	29487.6	38698.8	29041.7	31792.5	29070.6	33542.1	24908.9	23754.8	20449.3	25640.3	23213.3
Total	62000.9	67232.9	80537.5	73404.4	74518.7	73510.8	66565.9	66972.1	58491.0	54825.9	55940.8	53536.5

TABLE OLIVE IMPORTS (T)												
Country	MAR 20	MAR 21	APR 20	APR 21	MAY 20	MAY 21	JUN 20	JUN 21	JUL 20	JUL 21	AUG 20	AUG 21
Australia	1313.1	1353.1	1189.3	1645.5	1272.0	1876.8	1448.6	1643.4	1507.1	1593.0	1484.2	1281.8
Brazil	9705.8	9113.9	7022.8	8573.7	8040.0	6504.8	9629.6	7846.4	10512.5	7208.3	12911.9	10367.9
Canada	3172.0	3133.8	2659.9	2513.0	3267.6	3372.1	2542.3	3601.5	2511.3	3092.0	2055.7	3485.8
USA	12787.5	12571.5	11315.2	9505.0	111903.6	14908.1	10680.7	18216.1	10251.1	18166.4	16017.9	20399.1
Extra-EU	12933.8	11835.2	11125.5	10805.4	9423.8	9871.0	9085.0	9871.3	10603.6	8840.7	8719.2	N.D
Intra-EU	30347.3	31384.0	23765.1	27635.8	24680.8	27311.3	29570.0	28987.5	32804.1	31958.8	24331.5	N.D
Total	71395.5	69391.4	55317.7	60678.4	57003.7	63844.0	61798.5	70166.1	67233.1	30059.7	65291.1	35534.6

<https://www.internationaloliveoil.org/what-we-do/economic-affairs-promotion-unit/#exports>

³ According to the new provisions of the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives, 2015, 'table olive crop year' means the twelve months from 1 September of one year to 31 August of the next.

⁴ Data for the EU were not available for August 2021 when this newsletter went to print.



II. PRODUCER PRICES – OLIVE OILS

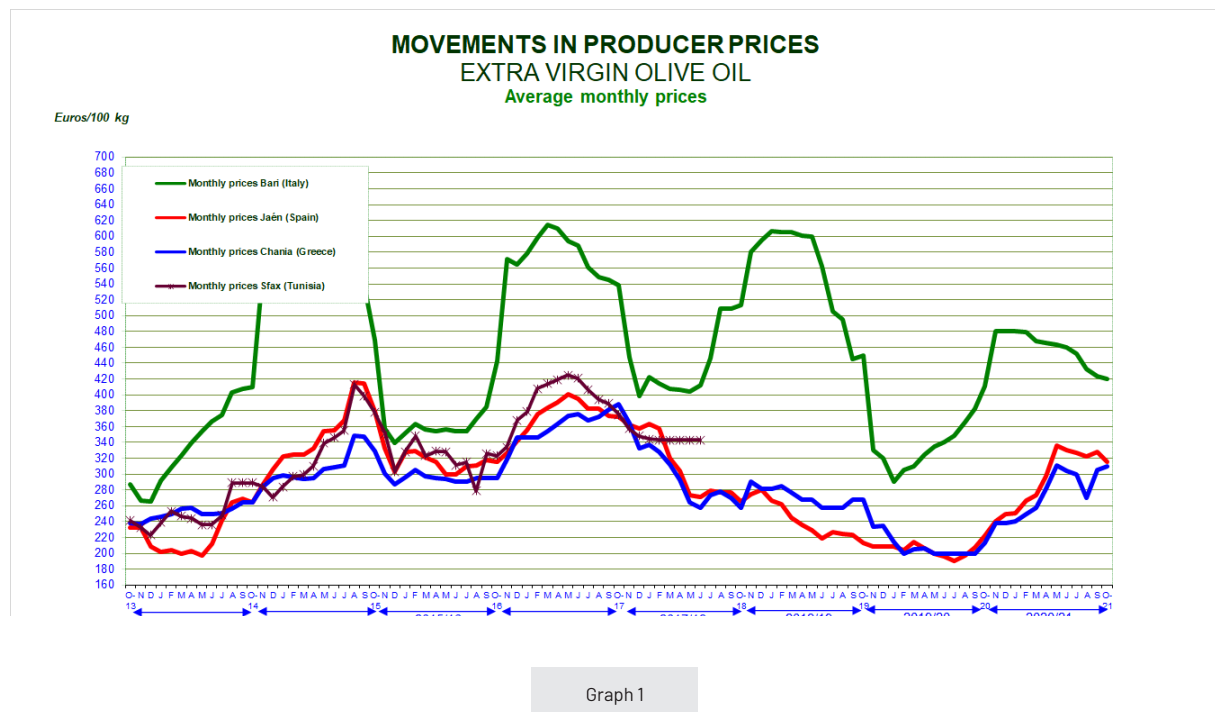
Monthly price movements for extra virgin olive oil and refined olive oil are shown in graphs 1 and 2.

Extra virgin olive oil – Producer prices in **Spain** from 18 to 24 October 2021 stood at €3.16/kg, a 38.7% rise on the same period the previous crop year.

Italy – Prices in Italy from 18 to 24 October 2021 stood at €4.20/kg, a 7.7% rise on the same period the previous crop year.

Greece – Prices in Greece from 18 to 24 October 2021 stood at €3.05/kg, a 38.6% rise on the same period the previous crop year.

Tunisia – Prices in Tunisia remained stable in the last weeks of June 2018, at €3.43/kg, an 18% fall compared to the same period the previous crop year.

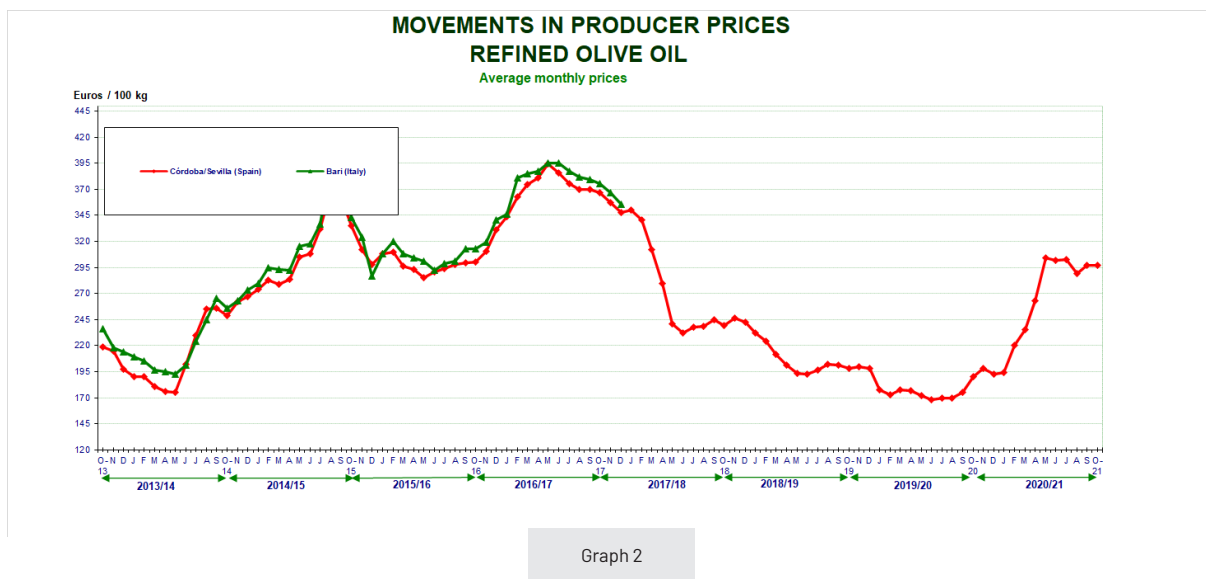


Refined olive oil: Producer prices in Spain stood at €2.86/kg from 18 to 24 October 2021, which indicates an increase of 47.5% compared to the same period the previous crop year. Data for Italy in this category have



not been available since the end of December 2017 when they had increased by 4% to €3.56/kg.

The difference between the price of extra virgin olive oil (€3.16/kg) and refined olive oil (€2.86/kg) in Spain was €0.30/kg. In Italy, the difference was €0.43/kg in December 2017.



<https://www.internationaloliveoil.org/what-we-do/economic-affairs-promotion-unit/#prices>



IOC

STAY TUNED!

<http://www.internationaloliveoil.org>

Keep up with the olive sector through
Olive News: <http://www.scoop.it/t/olive-news>

and the goings on at the IOC:
<http://www.linkedin.com/company/international-olivecouncil>

Our scientific journal Olivæ is available at:
<http://www.internationaloliveoil.org/store/index/48-olivae-publications>



IOC Headquarters:
C/ Príncipe de Vergara 154,
Madrid