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ISSUE 129 OF OLIVAE IS NOW LIVE

AMMAN / Our latest publication, issue 129 of *Olivae*, the official magazine of the **IOC** has officially landed. This year's edition was first presented at the opening of an international seminar on Jordanian olive growing in Amman, Jordan, on 9 June 2022.

No. 129 was praised by the Minister of Agriculture **Khaled Al-Hnaifat**, who is also the Chair of the IOC this year. He thanked Executive Director **Abdellatif Ghedira** for his kind words in the magazine's editorial, where he hailed the resourcefulness of the Jordanian olive sector, one that works in perfect harmony with the country's government.

With 64 pages of articles and scientific reports, the magazine was co-ordinated by Dr **Murad Al-Maitah**. He was appointed by Minister Al-Hnaifat as the main contact in an editorial board of five experts and 38 authors. The board worked in close collaboration with the Observatory Department of the IOC to bring you this overview of olive growing in Jordan.

In his speech, Minister **Khaled Al-Hnaifat** said: 'the governmental measures led by the Ministry of Agriculture support the development of the olive and olive oil sector, as the olive sector includes a number of official institutions such as the National Agricultural Research Center, the Royal Scientific Society, the Jordan Standards and Metrology, Jordan Food and Drug Administration, and Jordanian universities. The faculties of Agricultural Engineering, Chemistry, Medicine and Pharmacy are particularly involved and these bodies also work closely on scientific research in the fields of sensory and chemical analysis.'

Executive Director **Abdellatif Ghedira** added: 'Today, Jordanian olive products are exported all over the world and have become a point of reference for world demand. Jordan's olive industry is blossoming thanks to the synergy between its institutions, the public sector and private enterprises, which are represented by **JOPEA**, the Jordan Olive Products Exporters Association, and many of the top positions in this association are held by women. Indeed, a few years ago, the country drew from **Pandolea International's** initiative and set up the **Jordanian Women's Olive Oil Network** and became the founder of the **Arab Olive Oil Women's Association**. This network strives to promote the conscious consumption of Jordanian extra virgin olive oil, especially among young consumers.'

The magazine is available in **English** and **Arabic** in our digital library and can be downloaded for free here: <https://www.internationaloliveoil.org/publications/>.

It will be available in French, Italian and Spanish soon.

Enjoy!

58TH MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee for Olive Oil and Table Olives is an essential partner of the Council of Members. Its main tasks are as follows:



- To strengthen the role of the IOC as a hub for documentation and dissemination of information on the olive tree and its products and as a forum for meetings between all operators in the sector;
- To promote the consumption of olive products, the expansion of international trade in olive oil and table olives and information on the trade standards of the IOC;
- Support activities at international and regional levels that promote the dissemination of generic scientific information on the nutritional, health and other properties of olive oil and table olives with a view to better informing consumers;
- To examine global balance sheets on olive oil, olive-pomace oils and table olives, to undertake studies and to propose appropriate measures;
- To disseminate economic data and analyses on olive oil and table olives and to provide members with indicators to ensure the normal functioning of the olive products markets;
- Disseminate and use the results of research and development programmes on olive cultivation and study their applicability to improve production efficiency.

The 58th meeting of the Advisory Committee took place in Amman, Jordan, on 7 June, the day before the opening of the 115th Council of Members. Almost 200 people attended the meeting, both in person and by video conference.

Before the opening of the meeting, Executive Director **Abdellatif Ghedira** welcomed the representatives of the Advisory Committee and thanked the Jordanian authorities for their hospitality. The Minister of Agriculture of Jordan, Chair of the Council of Members, **Khaled Hanifet**, recalled the mission of the Committee and underlined its fundamental role, while the Chair of the Committee, **Ali Haj M'Barek**, stressed the economic, social and environmental importance of the olive sector.

The Executive Secretariat said that, adding to the Organisation's 18 current Members, several other countries (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Saudi Arabia and Azerbaijan) were in the process of acceding to the International Agreement. Mauritania has also requested information on the accession process.

The Executive Secretariat presented the conclusions of the 114th session of the Council of Members and the 21 decisions adopted on that occasion, as well as the follow-up to the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee, in particular on the issue of the Nutri-Score, the need to harmonise tasting panels and the plans to organise a seminar to celebrate the Committee's 30th anniversary.

Three initiatives from the international olive sector were presented:

- Francesco Serafini presented an initiative called '**Garden of Peace**', a project to set up olive gardens in the participating countries, where different activities to promote peace will be organised.
- The representative of the **Arab Olive Oil Women Network**, Nehaya Al-Muhaisen, described the mission of this ten-country network, supported by the IOC and other Arab and international institutions. She stressed the fundamental role of women in the olive oil production chain and in promoting its consumption.
- Emmanuelle Dechelette presented the **Olive Kids Awards** initiative, a competition for the best olive oil



selected by panels made up of children. The aim of this initiative is to organise a competition in each country and to teach children about tasting.

Following the interventions of the Advisory Committee representatives and observers, four new recommendations were made:

1. Conduct studies on the effects of climate change on the olive sector
2. Conduct a study on olive oil consumption and supporting the women's network
3. Review the Executive Secretariat's promotion strategy
4. Organise a world forum on the benefits of olive oil



The Chair of the Advisory Committee reiterated the invitation of his country, Tunisia, to host the next meeting of the Committee and celebrate its 30th anniversary. He reiterated his thanks to the Jordanian authorities. The Jordanian Minister of Agriculture welcomed the work of the meeting and encouraged the olive sector and the IOC to systematically promote the health benefits of olive products to better balance the market.

The Chair of the Advisory Committee, Ali Haj M'Barek,

115TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF MEMBERS

On 8 June, Chair of the Council and Minister of Agriculture of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan **Khaled Hanifet** opened the 115th session of the Council of Members. The Libyan Deputy Minister of Agriculture, **Mohamed Bachir Turki**, and the Palestinian Minister of Agriculture, **Riadh El Attari**, also gave welcoming remarks.



IOC Executive Director **Abdellatif Ghedira**, assisted by Deputy Executive Directors **Jaime Lillo**, for the operational section, and **Mustafa Sepetçi** for the administrative and financial section, welcomed the delegations: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Egypt, Georgia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moroc-



co, Palestine, Tunisia, Turkey, Uzbekistan, EU and Uruguay. The Chair of the Advisory Committee, **Ali Haj Mbarek**, also participated in the proceedings.



Many observers were also present at the plenary session of the Council of Members: Azerbaijan, Brazil, Iraq, Pakistan, Peru, Saudi Arabia and Sudan, as well as international organisations such as the Arab League, CI-HEAM and AOAD. After thanking the IOC and the Jordanian authorities for their invitation, they explained their main projects and lines of action.

Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD): The Director General of this organisation, Professor El Dukheir, recalled that his institution was closely following the IOC work and that the Economic and Social Council of the League of Arab States had decided to establish the Arab Olive Office to collaborate with the Executive Secretariat to develop the olive sector, harmonise IOC standards with those of its member countries and provide institutional sponsorship for the Arab Olive Oil Women Network.

Pakistan: The representative of Pakistan, Mr Tariq, announced that his country's membership of the Or-



organisation was about to be finalised. He described the growing importance of olive growing in Pakistan, adding that there were 36 oil mills in the country and that the Pakistani authorities wished to improve production and quality. He said environmental protection was a key aspect of the national olive development programme, which aims to plant 30 million olive trees in three years. The production chain is very important and therefore requires assistance from the IOC and partner countries to improve its technical practices.

Brazil: The Brazilian representative, Hugo Caruso, reported that the Ministry of Agriculture was making progress on finalising his country's membership of the IOC. Forecasts for 2025 include the planting of over 20 000 ha of olive groves. Brazil's entry into the IOC as an olive oil consuming country would be crucial for monitoring official controls and increasing consumption, he added.

CIHEAM: The Secretary General of CIHEAM, Plácido Plaza, referred to the amendment of the MoU signed with the IOC and emphasised the exemplary nature of this collaboration. This amendment is an opportunity to focus on priority issues, such as including women's networks and new training modalities in the olive sector. Mr Plaza said that his organisation would celebrate its 60th anniversary in July 2022 and reiterated his invitation to the Executive Director to the event.

Tunisia: The representative of Tunisia informed that the International Training Centre on Olive Oil and Table Olives of Tunisia had planned to organise a regional training course on improving olive oil quality in November and that this course would be open to all countries.

The session concluded with the signing of the amendment to the MoU between the CIHEAM and the IOC.

The Chair of the Council congratulated the members on their success and thanked them for their presence in Jordan.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON OLIVE OIL IN JORDAN



On 9 June 2022, an international seminar on Jordan's olive sector concluded the 115th session of the Council of Members. The seminar was attended by many of the representatives who attended the Advisory Committee meeting on 7 June 2022.

Welcome speeches were given by the President of the Jordanian Senate, **Akef Al-Zubi**, and the Secretary General of the Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture, **Mohammad Al Hyari**.

The seminar programme included:

- Technological innovations in virgin olive oil production processes, **Dr Sebastián Sánchez Villasclaras**, University of Jaén (Spain)
- Advanced oxidation processes for olive oil wastewater treatment, **Dr Gassan Hodaifa Meri**, University of Pablo de Olavide (Spain)



- Green energy through wastewater and algae synergy, **Dr Murad Irshied Al-Maaitah**, National Agricultural Research Centre (Jordan)
- The origin of olive trees (Al-Mehras), **Nizar Haddad et al**, National Agricultural Research Centre (Jordan)
- Full traceability for full transparency, **Dr Abdelaziz Makhoulfi**, CEO of CHO Group (Tunisia)
- *Xylella fastidiosa* and the olive sector, **Dr Abdalwali Altahat**, Ministry of Agriculture (Jordan)
- Improvement of key physiological parameters of the Jordanian olive tree under abiotic stress using natural micronized minerals, **Ibrahim Al-Tamimi**, Manaseer Group (Jordan)

TECHNICAL VISIT TO JORDANIAN OLIVE GROVES

On 10 June, a visit was made to the governorates of Ajlun and Irbid, the fertile highlands of northern Jordan.





SIGNING OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE MOU BETWEEN THE IOC AND THE CIHEAM

On 8 June 2022, during the plenary of the 115th session, Executive Director **Abdellatif Ghedira** and the Secretary-General of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), **Plácido Plaza López**, signed an amendment to improve the memorandum of understanding that was signed in Tunis on 15 July 2016. This amendment strengthens the conditions and priorities of the cooperation between the two intergovernmental bodies.



In particular, the parties have agreed on the following:

1. AREAS OF COOPERATION

- Promote technical cooperation and research and development by encouraging collaboration between public and private, national and international organisations and/or entities
- Encourage technology transfer through training activities in fields related to the olive sector by organising international, regional and national activities
- Mobilise the respective scientific and technical expertise to implement studies, research or development projects
- Share information and knowledge about the olive sector and participate in the promotion of each Party's activities within their respective Member States and networks
- Contribute respectively to the events organised (seminars, conferences, etc.) and the publications produced

2. PRIORITY ACTIVITIES

- Organise and participate in technical seminars of importance to the sector, in particular concerning emerging olive diseases and the management of *Xylella fastidiosa*



- Develop and implement specialised distance learning and doctoral mobility programmes
- Develop specific actions to promote the socio-economic inclusion of women and youth in the olive sector
- Contribute to the strengthening of regional structures and initiatives for the promotion and support of the olive sector
- Elaborate a regional report on the olive tree and the olive sector in the Mediterranean region
- Develop technical guides for the sector



AZERBAIJAN ANNOUNCES ITS INTENTION TO JOIN THE IOC

At the plenary session of the Council of Members, Azerbaijan officially announced its intention to accede to the International Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives and to join the IOC family in the near future. The announcement was made by **Eldar Salimov**, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He is pictured below on the left of Executive Director Abdellatif Ghedira, followed by the Jordanian Minister of Agriculture and current IOC Chair **Khaled Hanifet**, and Minister of Agriculture of the State of Palestine, Professor **Riadh El Attari**.



STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE IOC AND PAKISTAN

The IOC was pleased to welcome a delegation from Pakistan to the Executive Secretariat, made up of the following representatives:

- Dr **Khair Muhammad Kakar** (Director General, Oilseeds Department, Ministry of Food Security)
- Dr **Muhammad Tariq** (National Director of Olive Marketing Project, Oilseeds Department, Ministry of Food Security)
- **Muhammad Imran** (Technical Engineer, Mian Scientific Pvt Limited)
- **Muhammad Tahir Yaqoob** (Managing Director, Mian Scientific Pvt Limited)



Deputy Executive Director **Jaime Lillo** kicked off the meeting with a presentation on the mission of the Organisation. Head of the Standardisation and Research Unit, **Mercedes Fernández**, and Head of the Technical Unit, **Lhassane Sikaoui**, explained the activities organised in these areas by the IOC Executive Secretariat.

The Pakistani delegation then visited the Executive Secretariat's laboratory and the 'Mario Solinas' tasting room, with **Yousra Antit**, Head of the Depart-



ment of Olive Chemistry, and **Ibtihel Khemakhem**, Head of the Laboratory and Panel Management Section.

Executive Director **Abdellatif Ghedira** welcomed the delegation where they began discussing options for collaboration and the status of Pakistan's application for IOC membership. Gifts were exchanged at the end of the meeting.

On 10 and 11 May 2022, representatives of the Pakistani delegation travelled to Córdoba to take part in technical visits. **Catarina Bairrao**, Head of the Technical Cooperation and Training Department, organised the different activities, together with **Pablo Morello**, Head of the Olive Oil and Environment Department, who accompanied the delegation during their visits.



The delegation first visited the facilities of the agri-food laboratory of the Regional Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development. **Plácido Pascual Morales**, head of the virgin olive oil tasting panel, explained the process of physico-chemical analysis of the samples, as well as the sensory analysis of the oils by the tasting panels, in accordance with the standardised IOC protocol.

The delegation was then expected to visit the University of Córdoba, where they toured the olive technology and molecular marker laboratory, the propagation and quarantine greenhouse, the University's world olive germplasm bank, the greenhouse of commercial olive varieties and the comparative trial plots of hedge-grown olive groves.

The Pakistani delegation took advantage of its stay in Spain to visit the Montilla Olive Fair. This event was organised by the Consortium of the Fair and the Montoro City Council. The Pakistani representatives went to a range of stands presenting agricultural machinery, phytosanitary products, olive grove management services, olive oil extraction equipment, olive oil production companies, etc. The aim of the fair is to gather companies and people interested in olive growing and its products, to promote quality and to inform consumers so that they can appreciate the quality of extra virgin olive oil, promoting the distribution and commercialisation of oils and encouraging marketing strategies.

<http://www.feriadelolivo.es/>





A NEW ROADMAP FOR LABELLING THE NUTRITIONAL AND HEALTH CHARACTERISTICS OF VIRGIN OLIVE OILS



The IOC and the **QvExtra!** association held a successful conference on the labelling of health and nutritional claims for extra virgin olive oils (EVOO) in the EU. The meeting, which took place on 20 May at IOC headquarters in Madrid, brought together the bodies involved in deciding on the future EU food label, along with the Spanish Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, **Luis Planas**, who opened the session by stating his belief in 'the need for the debate established at this conference'.



The inauguration was also attended by **Ali Ben El Hadj M'Barek**, Chair of the IOC Advisory Committee – a key interlocutor for the IOC in conveying the opinions and concerns of the sector in member countries – **Abdelatif Ghedira**, Executive Director of the IOC, and **Soledad Serrano**, President of the QvExtra! association.

The Spanish Ministry of Agriculture was also represented at the conference by the Director General of the Food Industry, **José Miguel Herrero**, who took part in a round table discussion with **Sabine Pelsser**, Head of



the Food Information and Composition Unit at the European Commission's DG Health and Food Safety, who explained the timetable for the approval of mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling in the EU, and with **Mazaly Meder** and **Clara Aguilar**, members of the European Parliament's Agriculture Committee.

The extensive scientific evidence on the positive health effects of olive oil, and in particular the extra virgin category, was presented in a unique master class by Dr **Miguel Angel Martinez**.

Associations represented the olive sector from several European countries: Italy (Ceq Italia), Portugal (Casa do Azeite) and Spain (Interprofesional del aceite de oliva, Anierac, Asoliva, Almazaras Federadas, Sectorial de denominaciones de origen), as well as some of the most important companies nationally, some of which attended virtually.

Participants stressed the need to correct the Nutri-Score system, as it does not provide consumers with adequate information, as well as the opportunity to mention new health claims for the different categories of olive oil.

All organisations present committed to work together to achieve satisfactory nutrition and health labelling for the olive sector and to define new, accessible ways to communicate the many health benefits of olive oil.

The Director of the European Commission's Representation in Spain, **M^a Angeles Benitez Salas**, spoke at the closing ceremony of the conference.

The video of the event is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcGtHfzGjJY>.

FLAVOUR DISCOVERY IN THE OLIVE OIL WORLD: MENUS OF CHANGE, A COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE CIA/HARVARD AND THE IOC



The *Menus of Change* conference, a joint initiative of the IOC and the Culinary Institute of America (CIA), was held in Hyde Park, New York, from 14 to 16 June 2022.

Deputy Executive Director **Jaime Lillo** and Head of the Standardisation and Research Unit **Mercedes Fernández** represented the IOC at the session *Olive Oil and Vegetable Cooking: Mapping Flavours and Culinary Concepts for Sustainable and Environmentally Friendly Menus*.

Dr Fernández presented the IOC's activities and objectives, particularly in the areas of standardisation, quality and health. She also spoke about olive oil in food and explained the basics of olive oil tasting to the representatives of the American olive oil industry and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) who attended the session.

Dr Fernández also led a tasting session where participants had the opportunity to try four of the award-winning olive oils from the Mario Solinas Quality Award 2022, each of which were produced using the IOC method (COI/T.20/Doc. No 15).



A business lunch was also held for guests to discuss the needs of the US olive sector, its progress and other topics of interest.

This ongoing project, which is based around the joint 'Olive Oil and the Plant-Forward Kitchen' initiative, falls under a **multi-year collaboration agreement signed between the IOC and the CIA**. The initiative, more information for which can be found on the CIA's [website](#), aims to create flavour-matching strategies to help chefs move beyond a one-size-fits-all approach to olive oil. This initiative will help chefs build flavour portfolios with a variety of oils that meet different needs in their kitchens and on their menus, ultimately letting them make healthier, more sustainable menu choices.

Some of the objectives under this agreement are: to continue to disseminate scientific information, in particular on IOC standards and the physico-chemical, organoleptic and nutritional characteristics of olive products; to encourage technology transfer, research, education, harmonisation and dissemination of information on the importance of olive oil and its impact on society; and to increase and improve technical knowledge about olive oil and quality through culinary influencers in the US.

More information can be found on our website: <https://www.internationaloliveoil.org/>.

AMBASSADOR OF SAUDI ARABIA VISITS IOC HEADQUARTERS

On 23 June 2022, the Executive Director of the IOC (ED) welcomed H.E. **Azzam Abdulkarim Al Qaim**, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Spain, together with the Director General of Agriculture of the Al-Jouf region, **Abdullah Ahmed Al-Ahmari**, and a delegation from the Saudi olive sector.

After the guests were introduced and the parties shared some words of welcome, **Andoni Olano**, assistant to the ED, gave an update on the accession process: Members were expected to make the final decision in mid-September, this being the last step to formalise the entry of Saudi Arabia as a new member of the IOC.





Lhassane Sikaoui, Head of the Technical Unit, and **Mercedes Fernandez**, Head of the Standardisation and Research Unit, gave presentations on their respective fields. **Catarina Bairrao**, Head of the Technical Cooperation and Training Department, added a few more details on the activities of the Technical Unit.

Also invited was **Luis Rallo**, Professor Emeritus of the University of Córdoba and coordinator of the IOC network of olive germplasm banks, who presented the agreement and the activities being carried out with the University to study different olive varieties.

Javier Larraona, Head of the Observatory and IT Department, gave a brief presentation of the IOC website.

The Ambassador expressed his wish to be able to participate as an official member in the 116th session of the Council of Members in November 2022.

At the end of the meeting, the ED took his guests on a tour of the headquarters; souvenir photos were taken to commemorate the event.

THE IOC AND THE UNIVERSITY OF JAÉN JOIN FORCES TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE OLIVE SECTOR

The IOC hosted representatives from the University of Jaén (UJA) on 24 May 2022 for a new meeting of the **OLEA** initiative on the fight against climate change in the olive sector.

The OLEA project aims to promote the joint participation of researchers, SMEs, public administrations, universities and institutions in research and innovation projects in the olive sector. This initiative was launched by the **Office of International Projects** (OFIPI) of the Vice-Rectorate for Research of the UJA.

About 200 people attended the meeting, either virtually or in person at IOC headquarters. Participants came from 30 countries: Albania, Algeria, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Iran, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Peru, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States.

The conference was part of the **collaboration agreement** the IOC and the UJA signed in January 2020 and was inaugurated by Rector of the UJA **Juan Gómez Ortega** and Executive Director **Abdellatif Ghedira**.

The IOC was also represented by its Deputy Executive Director, **Jaime Lillo**; the Head of the Olive Growing, Olive Oil Technology and Environment Unit, **Lhassane Sikaoui**; and the Head of the Technical Cooperation and Training Department, **Catarina Bairrao**. The Head of the Olive Oil and Environment Department, **Pablo Morello**, followed the conference online.

The UJA was represented by Gustavo A. Reyes del Paso, Vice-Rector for Research; Juan Bautista Barroso Albarracín, Director of the University Institute for Research on Olive Oil and Olive Oils; and Nieves Muñoz García, Coordinator of the OLEA initiative.

Many experts were also present, including members of CIEMAT (Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas, Medioambientales y Tecnológicas), CDTI (Centro de Desarrollo Tecnológico Industrial), and the Instituto de Investigación en Ciencias de la Alimentación (CIAL) CSIC – UAM.



The purpose of this meeting was to present the results in terms of coordination/participation in international research and development projects on climate change mitigation in the olive sector. The results of the following projects were presented:

- [SUSTAINOLIVE](#): The objective of this project is to improve the sustainability of the olive sector, through the implementation and promotion of a set of innovative sustainable management solutions based on agro-ecological concepts, as well as through the exchange of knowledge and the participation of multiple stakeholders and end-users.
- [OLIVARESVIVOS](#) and OLIVARESVIVOS+: These initiatives aim to make the olive grove more profitable by recovering its biodiversity and generating olive oils identified and certified by a value-added mark.
- SMART-AGRI-SPORE: This project seeks to develop new intelligent spore-based biopesticides to combat *Xylella fastidiosa*.
- [COMPOLIVE](#): The objective of this project is to develop a new generation of biocomposites based on olive tree pruning residues for industrial applications, promoting the substitution of non-renewable resources through the design of sustainable wood fibre-based products.
- OLIVEN: This project is dedicated to the search for possibilities to improve the olive oil value chain through adding value to by-products.
- [REFLECT AFRICA](#): This initiative focuses on renewable energy and the efficient use of agri-food waste in Africa.
- [ARTOLIO](#): This project on sustainable artisanal olive growing aims to improve the economic sustainability of micro, small and medium enterprises in the Mediterranean olive sector and to increase both the yield and quality of olive oil, by appointing regional local knowledge institutions as mentors, as well as a pan-Mediterranean platform to assist local producers in marketing and sales.





IOC WEBSITE IS NOW AVAILABLE IN ITALIAN AND SPANISH

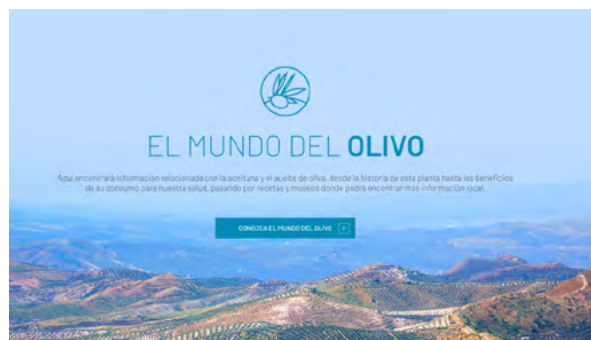
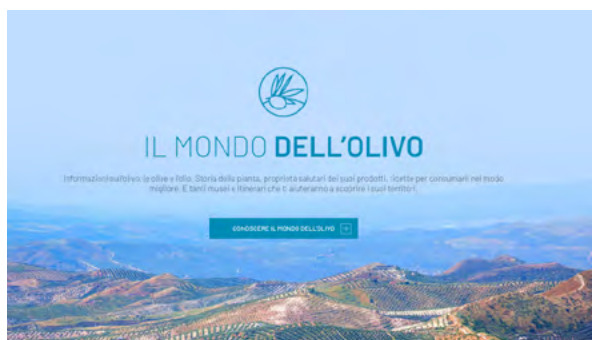
As promised, the IOC website is now available in Italian and Spanish! Over 100 static pages have been added to the English and French versions that are already live.

Readers will now be able to consult all the different sections of the website in four languages: from the structure of the Executive Secretariat to the basic texts of the international agreements, as well as the activities of the operational units and their departments: chemistry, technology, statistics, promotion and training. Readers can travel through the world of olive oil or browse our digital bookshop, where all our publications can be downloaded using a simple form – and completely free of charge. You can also explore the latest addition to the site, the olive oil Observatory carousel – just click under the tables to access a myriad of economic information.

There is also plenty of information on legal notices, contracts, grants and job offers.

You will also have access to the OHIS health portal and the Culinary Institute of America's website.

The next step is the Arabic version, and we're hard at work on it. In the meantime, happy reading and browsing to all.



THE IOC AT CIAO2022

From 26 to 28 May 2022, the Andalusian Academy of Regional Science (AACR) held the **International Congress on the Olive Grove and Olive Oil (CIAO2022)** in Jaén. This year, the event focused on **olive-growing territories in the face of socio-economic and environmental changes**.

A scientific forum for discussion on olive groves and olive oil, CIAO2022 aimed to provide analysis and ideas that can help identify technological, commercial, institutional, and political solutions to the issues facing the sector.

The opening ceremony was attended by **José Vallés Ferrer**, President of the Andalusian Academy of Regional Science; **Fernando Miranda Sotillos**, Secretary General of Agriculture and Food of the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture; **Vicente Pérez García de Prado**, Secretary General of Agriculture, Livestock and Food



of the Regional Government of Andalusia; **Francisco Reyes Martínez**, President of the Provincial Council of Jaén; **Juán Gómez Ortega**, Rector of the University of Jaén (UJA); **África Colomo Jiménez**, Second Deputy Mayor of Jaén; and **Lhassane Sikaoui**, Head of the Olive Growing, Olive Oil Technology and Environment Unit of the IOC on behalf of the Executive Director, **Abdellatif Ghedira**.



From left to right: África Colomo Jiménez, Francisco Reyes Martínez, Fernando Miranda Sotillos, José Vallés Ferrer, Vicente Pérez García de Prado, Juan Gómez Ortega and Lhassane Sikaoui.

Lhassane Sikaoui gave the opening speech on 'the situation, problems and prospects of olive growing and olive oil in the world'.

The IOC was also represented by the Head of the Technical Cooperation and Training Department, **Catarina Bairrao Balula**, and the Head of the Olive Oil and Environment Department, **Pablo Morello Parra**.



From left to right: Pablo Morello Parra, Catarina Bairrao Balula and Lhassane Sikaoui.



The first session was given by **Luis Rallo**, Emeritus Professor of the University of Córdoba (UCO) and the coordinator of the IOC network of germplasm banks, on 'the olive grove at a time of change (1970-2020): the role of research and technology transfer'.

The second session was on 'the challenges for the future of the olive grove: the role of public policies', given by **José Antonio Gómez-Limón** from the UCO.

The third session, led by **Manuel Parras Rosa** (UJA), was on 'The olive oil market in Spain: demand, behaviour and trends'.

María Dolores del Toro, director of ceiA3, dedicated her presentation to 'ceiA3's Agri-Food Campus of Excellence – Successful cases of ecosystem revitalisation: the unique AgroMIS and GO Global Sensolive Oil projects'.

The CIAO2022 sessions were organised around four main themes:

- Olive growing systems: technical and economic aspects
- Olive oil: production, types and characteristics
- Olive groves, environment and territory: olive growing in rural development
- Markets, consumption and demand: marketing strategies

Participants discussed these themes in sessions held on the sidelines of the Congress and analysed various issues, including olive breeding and varieties, pests and diseases, water use, organic farming and biodiversity, farming systems and olive grove agronomy, olive oil extraction, challenges and opportunities for the development of the circular bioeconomy, international trade of olive oils, consumption and demand of olive oils, history of olive growing and use of olive oil, role of the olive grove in the endogenous and sustainable development of territories.

Akram Charfi, a doctoral student at the IOC, presented the findings of a research project carried out with his supervisor **Sebastián Sanchez** from the UJA. For his doctoral thesis, Charfi studied safety in the production of virgin olive oils: '*Production of olive oils with strict control of compounds that present toxicity*'.

During the technical visit, Vicente José Gallego Simón presented two approaches to olive grove management: a recently planted super-intensive olive grove, with a planting frame of 1.5 m x 5 m, and an olive grove managed according to the principles of the Olivares Vivos project, which aims to conserve biodiversity by recovering flora and fauna through specific olive grove management techniques.

The conclusions of the congress will be published shortly.



From left to right: Pablo Morello Parra, Catarina Bairrao Balula, Lhassane Sikaoui, Sebastián Sanchez and Akram Charfi.

IOC AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 14TH MASTER'S IN OLIVE GROWING AND OLIVE OIL TECHNOLOGY (CORDOBA)

The closing ceremony of the 14th edition of the master's degree in olive growing and olive oil technology took place at the University of Cordoba (UCO) on 25 May 2022. The degree programme was designed by the UCO in collaboration with the Regional Ministry of Agriculture of Andalusia (Consejería de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Desarrollo Sostenible de la Junta de Andalucía), the Andalusian Institute for Research and Training in Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Ecological Production (IFAPA), the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), through the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (IAMZ), the IOC, the Spanish Higher Council for Scientific Research (CSIC) and the Patrimonio Comunal Olivarero Foundation (PCO).



From left to right: Leire Molinero Ruiz (CSIC), Lhassane Sikaoui (IOC), Juan Ramón Pérez Valenzuela (CAP), Álvaro Martínez Moreno (UCO), Ramzi Belkoudja (CIHEAM), Iñaki Benito Otazo (FPCO) and Ricardo Fernández Escobar (Director of the Master's programme, UCO).



The closing ceremony was attended by **Juan Ramón Pérez Valenzuela**, Territorial Delegate of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries in Junta de Andalucía, Regional Government of Andalusia (CAP); **Leire Molinero Ruiz**, Director of the Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (CSIC, IAS); **Álvaro Martínez Moreno**, General Coordinator of Postgraduate Studies and Director of the Institute of Postgraduate Studies (UCO); **Iñaki Benito Otazu**, Managing Director of the FPCO; **Lhassane Sikaoui**, Head of the Olive Growing, Olive Oil Technology and Environment Unit (IOC); **Ramzi Belkoudja**, Coordinator of Plant Production, Health and Breeding (CI-HEAM); and **Ricardo Fernández Escobar**, the Director of the master's (UCO). The Head of the Technical Cooperation and Training Department of the IOC, **Catarina Bairrao**, and the Head of the Olive Oil Technology and Environment Department of the IOC, **Pablo Morello Parra**, also attended, as did **Luis Rallo Romero**, the coordinator of the IOC germplasm bank network and Emeritus Professor at the UCO, **Juan Caballero**, researcher and professor on the course, and the master's secretary, **Carmen Vacas**.

One of the organisers of the degree, the IOC also participates in its executive and technical committees.



From left to right: Pablo Morello (IOC), Lahcene Birouche, Ivo Miličić and Ferhat Özçelik (IOC fellows), Catarina Bairrao (IOC), Roohollah Hashemzadei (IOC fellow), Lhassane Sikaoui (IOC), Ricardo Fernández Escobar (Master Director) and Carmen Vacas (Master Secretary).

The IOC awarded four scholarships for this master's degree. The current scholars, Ferhat Özçelik, Ivo Miličić, Lahcene Birouche and Roohollah Hashemzadei, have successfully concluded their first year. They will soon start working on their theses in subjects of key interest for the olive sector, which were chosen with their thesis directors and the IOC.

The IOC congratulates its scholars and all the students for successfully concluding the first year and wishes them all the best for the intense work in year two.



COUNTRY FOCUS: OLIVE OIL IMPORTS FROM JAPAN

Japanese imports of olive oil and olive-pomace oil reached 61 065 t in the 2020/21 crop year¹, down by 15.2% compared to 2019/20.

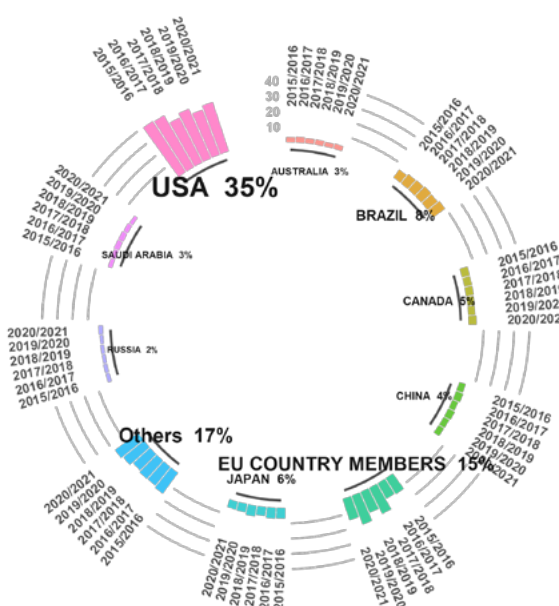


Graph 1 - Evolution of olive oil and olive-pomace oil imports in Japan.

1. OLIVE OIL AND OLIVE POMACE OIL

Japan accounts for about 6% of the world olive oil imports, which places it fourth² behind the US (35%), the EU (15%) and Brazil (8%). Together, these four countries account for 64% of world imports.

Japanese imports of olive oil and olive-pomace oil fell by 15.2% in the 2020/21 crop year, reaching 61 065 t. Table 1 shows imports in the last seven crop years. Italy and Spain are the main suppliers to Japan, accounting for 93.4% of the total, followed by Turkey with 4.3%.



Graph 2 - Percentage of world imports of olive oil and olive-pomace oil (average over six crop years).

¹ Provisional data

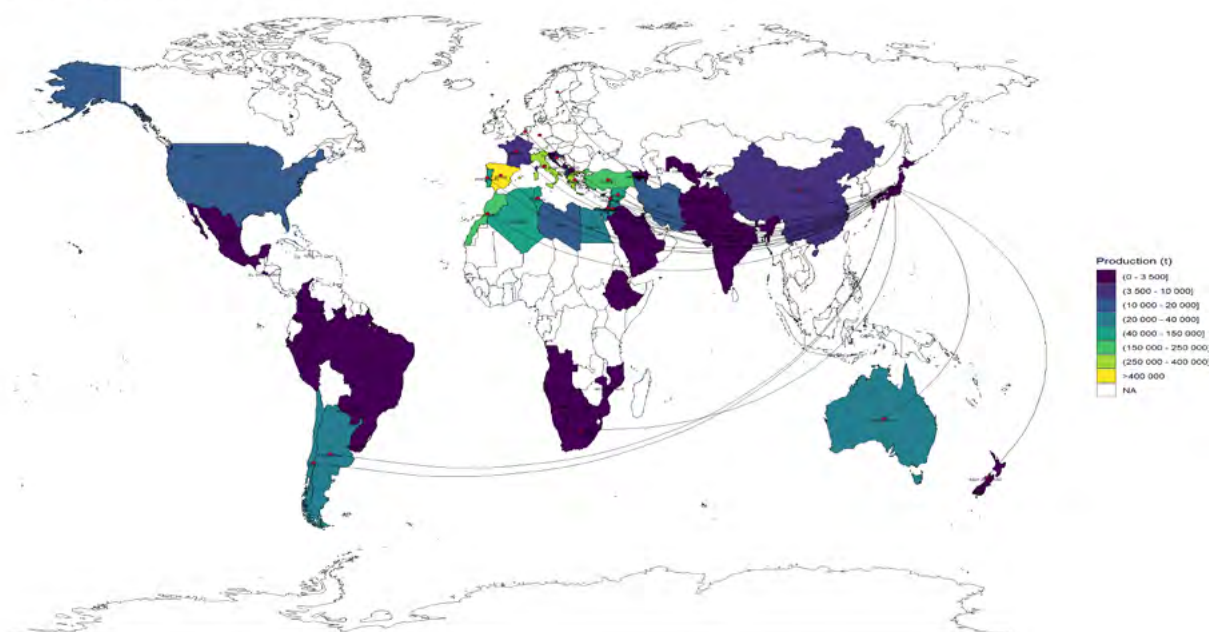
² The UK is not included in the ranking



	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	%Variation Rates
SPAIN	33584	31455	33757	33622	43360	47277	38619	↓ -18.3
ITALY	25066	22233	20769	19022	22998	20606	18401	↓ -10.7
TURKEY	1884	870	830	2757	2590	2325	2623	↑ 12.8
GREECE	794	1160	691	705	744	867	579	↓ -33.3
PORTUGAL	128	413	213	397	256	482	457	↓ -5.2
Others	448	608	623	662	692	480	385	↓ -19.7
Total	61904	56738	56884	57166	70640	72038	61065	↓ -15.2

Table 1 - Olive oil and olive pomace oil imports by partner country (2014/15 - 2020/21)(t).

Olive oil imports to Japan and olive oil production, 2020/21 crop year



Source: IOC own elaboration based on Trade Statistics of Japan - Ministry of Finance

Map 1 - Japan's import flows and world production - 2020/21, provisional data.

In terms of volumes by product category, 77.4% of total imports fell under code 15.09.10 (virgin olive oils),



Country	OLIVE OIL		OLIVE POMACE OIL	TOTAL
	150910 VIRGIN OLIVE OIL	150990 OLIVE OIL	151000 OLIVE POMACE OIL	
SPAIN	28852	8268	1500	38619
ITALY	15083	3091	227	18401
TURKEY	2119	504	0	2623
GREECE	557	0	22	579
PORTUGAL	306	1	150	457
AUSTRALIA	99	1	0	100
TUNISIA	88	3	0	91
CHILE	76	0	0	76
OTHERS	110	9	0	119
TOTAL	47290	11876	1899	61065

* Source: Own elaboration based on JAPAN Customs

19.5% under code 15.09.90 (olive oils) and 3.1% under code (15.10.00)(olive pomace oils).

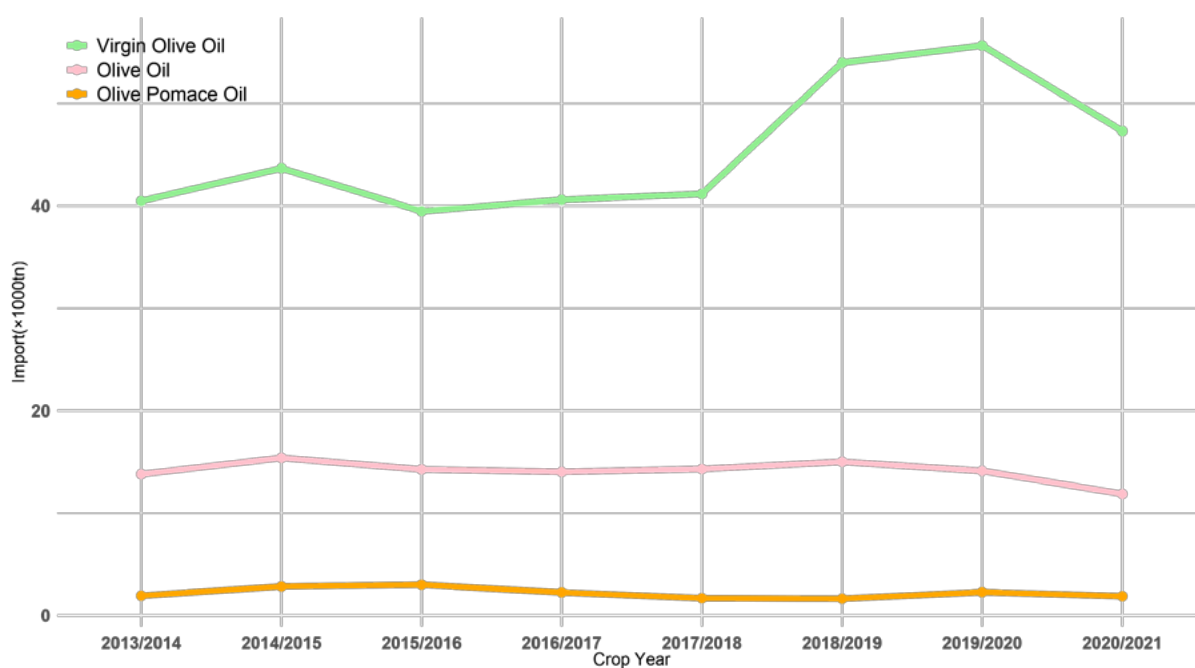


Table 2 - Distribution of imports by product type and partner (2020/2021)(t)



Graph 3 - Evolution of imports by product type 2013/14 - 2020/21 (×1000 t)
<https://www.internationaloliveoil.org/what-we-do/economic-affairs-promotion-unit/#exports>

THE WORLD MARKET FOR OLIVE OIL AND TABLE OLIVES

1. OLIVE OIL – 2021/22 CROP YEAR

The table below shows trade in olive oil and olive pomace oil in eight countries in the first months of the 2021/22 crop year. Imports fell by 11% in Australia, 20% in Brazil, 18% in Canada, 17% in Russia and 8% in the US compared to the same period the previous crop year. Imports rose by 9% in Japan and 2% in China.

In the first five months of the 2021/22 crop year, intra-EU acquisitions were stable and extra-EU imports fell by 19% compared to the same period the previous crop year.

OLIVE OIL IMPORTS (INCLUDING OLIVE-POMACE OILS)(T)													
No	IMPORTING COUNTRY	OCT 20	OCT 21	NOV 20	NOV 21	DEC 20	DEC 21	JAN 21	JAN 22	FEB 21	FEB 22	MARCH 21	MARCH 22
1	AUSTRALIA	3353.3	3385.1	2563.6	2254.0	3377.3	2809.0	1942.9	1967.5	3708.4	2453.0	2840.9	2941.4
2	BRAZIL	11052.3	8137.6	12249.6	8895.7	10356.0	7465.7	9219.6	7150.2	7230.1	6199.6	9490.6	9808.9
3	CANADA	5755.7	3195.9	5146.6	3628.6	5900.5	3209.7	5417.4	3997.5	3541.5	5294.5	4686.8	5632.6
4	CHINA	2588.2	3156.3	5438.5	5464.2	7785.1	8439.6	4931.3	3827.9	1974.5	2931.0	3264.2	2711.2
5	JAPAN	4902.6	4567.0	6160.0	6856.5	4478.2	4514.3	3690.9	6200.7	3687.6	3557.2	5915.0	5759.4
6	RUSSIA	4156.7	3227.1	3908.1	3393.8	3992.3	2805.4	2220.1	2362.0	2764.4	N.D.	2392.6	N.D.
7	USA	29339.7	24667.7	33389.2	32101.5	32336.5	25586.4	41415.3	28712.1	22794.7	31094.2	29599.8	32371.3
8	EXTRA-EU/27	19817.7	15418.9	22010.5	9681.7	19222.7	28845.2	14900.6	7075.9	17754.0	14814.2	20302.2	N.D.
	INTRA-EU/27	98528.6	81263.4	104971.3	98173.2	119103.8	116706.2	96943.8	97792.8	119629.3	113380.0	122183.2	N.D.
	TOTAL	179494.7	147019.0	195837.4	170449.1	206552.4	200381.5	180682.0	154086.6	183084.4	179723.6	200675.3	59224.6

2. TABLE OLIVES – 2021/22 CROP YEAR

The table below shows trade in table olives in the 2021/22 crop year³ (September 2021-March 2022). Imports fell by 9% in Australia, 23% in Brazil and 17% in Canada compared to the same period the previous crop year. Imports rose by 3% in the US.

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.



In the 2021/22 crop year (September 2021-February 2022), intra-EU acquisitions rose by 5% and extra-EU imports fell by 7% compared to the same period the previous crop year⁴.

TABLE OLIVE IMPORTS (T)

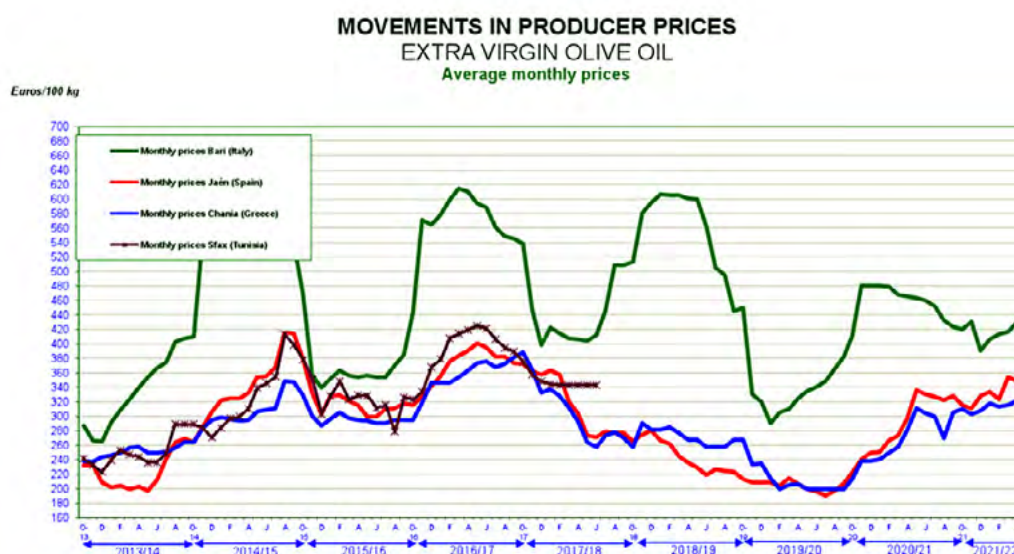
No	IMPORTING COUNTRY	SEP 20	SEP 21	OCT 20	OCT 21	NOV 20	NOV 21	DEC 20	DEC 21	JAN 21	JAN 22	FEB 21	FEB 22	MARCH 21	MARCH 22
1	AUSTRALIA	1590.2	1622.4	1457.0	1120.8	1671.5	12777.0	2141.9	1531.5	1538.6	1296.8	2028.3	1565.2	1353.1	2275.7
2	BRAZIL	14702.7	11770.4	17012.7	10495.0	14990.8	13417.9	14363.3	9812.7	9531.1	5484.3	9704.5	8182.5	9113.9	9275.3
3	CANADA	4138.0	2581.3	3671.0	2396.9	4088.8	3150.3	3140.7	3032.9	3072.5	3320.0	2375.5	2403.6	3133.8	2837.2
4	USA	8942.1	12274.1	11341.4	11534.0	13197.0	10713.6	11828.2	12419.3	1664.8	11211.4	8397.8	9804.7	12571.5	12150.6
5	EXTRA-EU/27	8375.4	8335.4	10867.0	8858.6	10492.1	9328.5	10589.1	8114.0	8569.6	8712.3	7817.1	9371.0	11835.2	N.D.
	INTRA-EU/27	29487.6	28211.0	29041.7	33305.3	29070.6	39645.5	24908.9	26423.6	20449.3	21998.0	23213.3	24904.0	31384.0	N.D.
	TOTAL	67235.9	64794.6	73390.7	67710.6	73510.8	77532.7	66972.1	61334.0	54825.9	52002.7	53536.5	56231.0	69391.4	26538.8

Table olive imports (t)

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 9 to 15 May 2022 stood at €3.39/kg, a 0.4% rise on the same period the previous crop year.



Graph 1

⁴ Data for the EU were not available for March 2022 when this newsletter went to print.



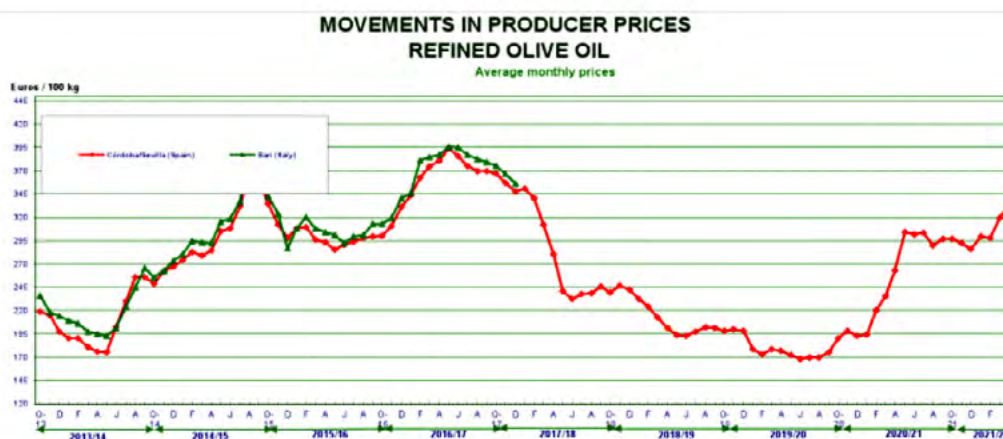
Italy – Prices in **Italy** from 9 to 15 May 2022 stood at €4.35/kg, a 6.5% fall on the same period the previous crop year.

Greece – Prices in **Greece** from 9 to 15 May 2022 stood at €3.30/kg, a 3.1% 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 €3.30/kg from 9 to 15 May 2022, which indicates an increase of 8.9% compared to the same period the previous crop year. Data for Italy have not been available for this category 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 (€3.39/kg) and refined olive oil (€3.30/kg) in Spain was €0.09/kg. In Italy, the difference was €0.43/kg in December 2017 (Graph 2).



Graph 2

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



STAY TUNED!

<http://www.internationaloliveoil.org>

World Olive Observatory:

<https://www.internationaloliveoil.org/#observatory-carousel>

Keep up with the olive sector through Olive News:

<https://www.scoop.it/topic/olive-news>

and the goings on at the IOC:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/international-olive-council/>

Our scientific journal *Olivae* is available at:

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

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