



Intervention by HE the Minister of Agriculture and the Sea

Celebration of World Olive Tree Day

Córdoba | November 20, 2025

Courtesy Translation

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain, Luis Planas

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development and Water and Forests of Morocco, Mohamed Sadiki

Executive Director of the International Olive Council, Jaime Lillo,

Ladies and gentlemen,

- I start by greeting the joint organization of this event by the International Olive Council, the Provincial Council (Diputación) of Córdoba, the University of Córdoba, and the Junta de Andalucía.
- It is with great pleasure that I am here today, in the city of Córdoba, to celebrate **World Olive Tree Day**, following the Plenary Session of the Council of Members of the International Olive Council.
- We join the objectives of this gathering in such a relevant sector that contributes to:
 - Food security and healthy diets,
 - Rural development,
 - Soil conservation, biodiversity, and climate change mitigation,



- International trade based on harmonized standards.
- Olive groves occupy more than 10 million hectares, mostly concentrated in the Mediterranean basin.
- In Portugal, olive oil production has increased by 300% over the last 20 years. We have over 380 thousand hectares of olive groves. With a production of 150 thousand tons in the last campaign, most of the oil produced is extra virgin.
- During the last campaign, Portugal was the 6th largest producer in the world. Exports in 2024 reached 1.6 billion euros.
- However, Portugal faces the same challenges as other producing countries:
 - The impacts of climate change,
 - Changes in commercialisation and international trade,
 - The need to invest on sustainability and circular economy,
 - Promotion of consumption,
 - Modernization and new technologies to increase competitiveness,
 - Combating fraud and ensuring transparency in the market.
- It is also for these reasons that we are joining the "**Córdoba Declaration**" signed today. This strategic document will define global commitments around olive oil and olive trees as symbols of peace, culture, and prosperity.
- The declaration also reaffirms the global importance of the olive tree as a cultural symbol and crop, with significant economic, environmental, and social weight.
- The signing of the Córdoba Declaration will be a milestone of strategic importance for the olive sector.
- It reinforces the international commitment to strengthening the sector, taking into account aspects such as: technical and scientific cooperation,



sustainability (namely the efficient management of natural resources—especially water), increasing quality, enhancing nutritional and organoleptic properties, as well as increasing market transparency.

- Thanks to the commendable work done by the IOC in developing marketing standards, supporting dissemination, and encouraging regular discussion between administrations and the private sector, the olive sector gained credibility and recognition on a global scale.
- Assuming the commitment and cooperation with the values that unite the IOC Member States, I would like to invite the Council of Members of the International Olive Council and its Executive Direction to hold its 123rd Plenary Session of the Council of Members in Portugal, in June next year.
- I also extend the invitation to host the 66th edition of the IOC Advisory Committee in Portugal, also in June, 2026.
- Portugal, and our olive-growing tradition and commitment to sector development, brings together ideal conditions to host this event. Holding these sessions in our country will be an opportunity to strengthen relations among members and promote technical and institutional dialogue within the IOC.
- We also congratulate ourselves for becoming the host country of the *2nd Olive Oil World Congress*, in July, 2026, which stands out as a forum for technical-scientific discussion and a global meeting point for producers, researchers, companies, and institutions connected to olive oil.

I look forward to seeing you all in Lisbon.

Thank you very much.