

Growers of the Region of Murcia discover how to improve their crops thanks to the Irriman Life+ project

Over one hundred growers and representatives of enterprises related with the agrarian sector have participated in a Day of Agro-food Transfer within the European Irriman Life+ (LIFE13 ENV/ES/000539) project which has taken place in the function hall of the Consejería de Agua, Agricultura y Medio Ambiente de Murcia.

In the day, the first data of the irrigation systems that the Irriman project is applying in different crops and zones of the provinces of Murcia and Córdoba have been presented. The project seeks how to improve the quality of harvests in water deficit conditions. Those responsible for the project have explained that the first assessments that are being carried out in crops such as nectarine, table grape and peach are proving to be very satisfactory.

The Irriman Life+ project, which the Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena (UPCT) is leading, is developing an algorithm which allows growers to simply put into practice an irrigation system that saves water and at the same time improves the quality of the plant and the crops that are produced. Ultimately, what is sought is to answer the three key questions for a grower: how, when and how much to irrigate.



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The director of the Irriman Life+ project, Alejandro Pérez Pastor, has explained the importance of disseminating the project among irrigation communities so that they know that they will have available a valid tool to improve the quality of their harvests.

The presentation also boasted the participation of the agronomic engineer from the UPCT, José María de la Rosa Sánchez; the profesor de Investigación from the Centro de Edafología y Biología Aplicada del Segura (CSIC), Juan José Alarcón Cabañero; the head of the Servicio de Formación y Transferencia Tecnológica de la Comunidad Autónoma de la Región de Murcia, Antonio Aroca Martínez; and the Técnico de Gestión de la Comunidad de Murcia, Vicente José Pascual Navarro.

The principal aim of the Irriman Life+ project is to put into practice, demonstrate and disseminate a strategy of sustainable irrigation based on deficit irrigation to promote its widescale acceptance and the use in crops in Mediterranean agroecosystems, characterised by water scarcity, without affecting the quality standards demanded by export markets.

The project is co-funded by the Life+ programme of the European Union and in which the Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena, the Centro de Edafología y Biología Aplicada del Segura (CEBAS-CSIC), the Consejería de Agricultura de Murcia, the Universidad de Córdoba (UCO), the Comunidad de Regantes Genil-Cabra and the Federación de Comunidades de Regantes del Mediterráneo (Fenacore) participate as partners.

The director of the project, Alejandro Pérez-Pastor has explained the importance of reaching the irrigation communities

Professionals from the agrarian world participate in the specialisation course in deficit irrigation for a sustainable agriculture

The course 'Specialisation in deficit irrigation. Implementation of efficient irrigation management for a sustainable agriculture' has taken place in the installations of the Centro Integrado de Formación y Experiencias Agrarias (CIFEA) in Molina de Segura (Murcia), as well as in that of Lorca.

These courses, attended by professionals of the agrarian sector of the Region of Murcia, are organised by the Irriman Life+ project, which has as its aim to put into practice, demonstrate and disseminate a strategy of sustainable irrigation based on deficit irrigation to promote its widespread acceptance and use in crops in Mediterranean agroecosystems.

With this training action the purpose is to make known the latest technological advances in controlled deficit irrigation systems, control devices and efficiency in irrigation, study the quality and management of water resources from different sources, as well as the use of new technologies such as thermography or GIS visors. The courses also include a visit to some of the experimental stations that participate in the project.



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In the forthcoming weeks further courses similar to this one will be held in the CIFEA in Torre Pacheco (The next courses will take place in the CIFEA in Torre Pacheco (6/13 February 2017), and in the CIFEA in Jumilla (6/13 March 2017). If you are interested in participating, information is available at: Servicio de Formación y Transferencia Tecnológica. Consejería de Agua, Agricultura y Medio Ambiente. Telephone: 968 36 27 43.

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