

IFAPA

## **Olive biodiversity and sustainability**

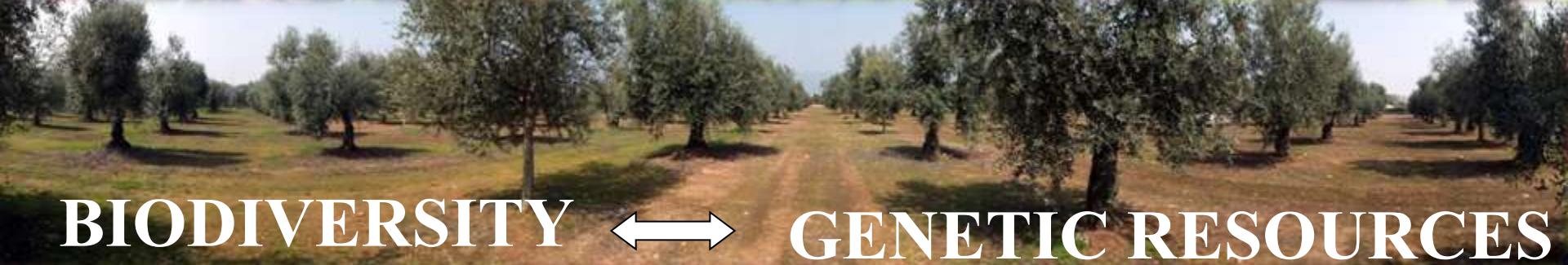
**Regional Awareness seminar: IOC-Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture**

**Angjelina Belaj**

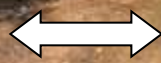
**IFAPA. Centre “Alameda del Obispo”**

**Córdoba. Spain.**

**Tehran, 17 May 2016**



**BIODIVERSITY**



**GENETIC RESOURCES**



# GENETIC RESOURCES

## CULTIVATED OLIVE



## WILD OLIVE POPULATIONS

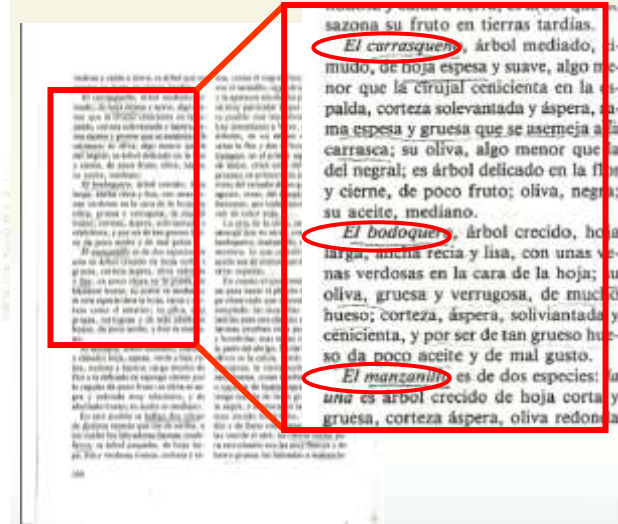


## RELATED SUBSPECIES



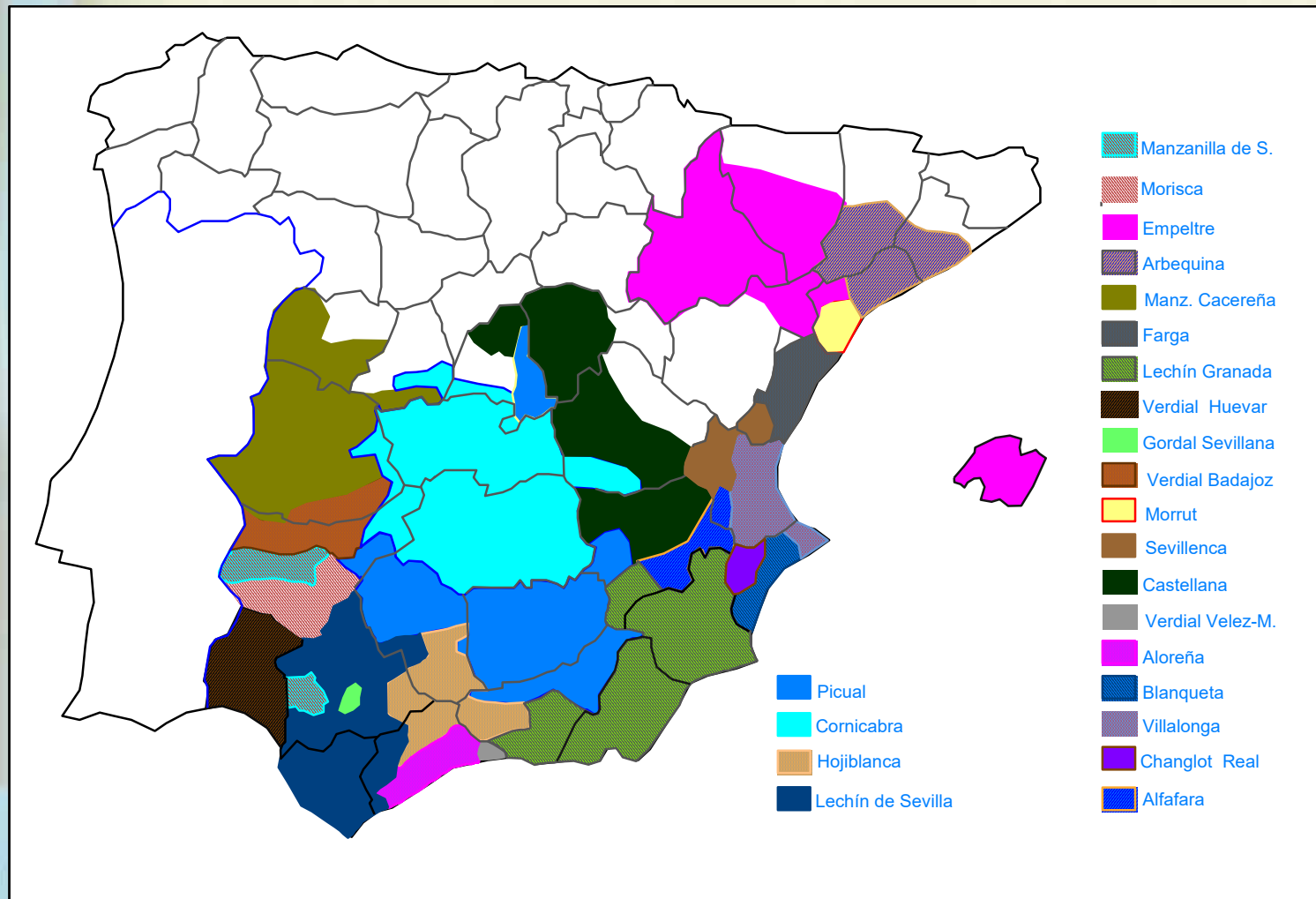
# VARIETAL STRUCTURE IN OLIVE

- Very old cultivars



# VARIETAL STRUCTURE IN OLIVE

- Traditionally restricted location of cultivars



# VARIETAL STRUCTURE IN OLIVE

- **High number of cultivars**

**1250 varieties**

**(3000 different names)**

*Bartolini et al. 2008; Olea database*

**>2000 varieties**

*(FAO 2010; Muzzalupo et al 2014)*



# GENERAL CRITERIA OF NAMING

- Homonyms

## Main cultivars

‘Toffahi’, ‘Belad’, ‘Majhol’, ‘Manzanilla’, ‘Verdial’, ‘Chemlal’ ‘Picholine

‘Arbequina’, ‘Blanqueta’, ‘Picual’

‘Aloreña’, ‘Castellana’, ‘Lechín de Granada’, ‘Manzanilla Cacereña’,  
‘Manzanilla de Sevilla’, , ‘Morisca’, ‘Villalonga’

‘Verdial de Badajoz’, ‘Verdial de Huévar’, ‘Verdial de Vélez-Málaga’

# GENERAL CRITERIA OF NAMING

- **Synonyms**

## SYNONYMS (Picual)

## CRITERIA

**Picúa**

*fruit morphology*

**Nevadillo**

*leaf color*

**De Aceite**

*use*

**Marteño, Lopereño, Andaluza**

*localization*



## Modern olive orchards: different planting systems

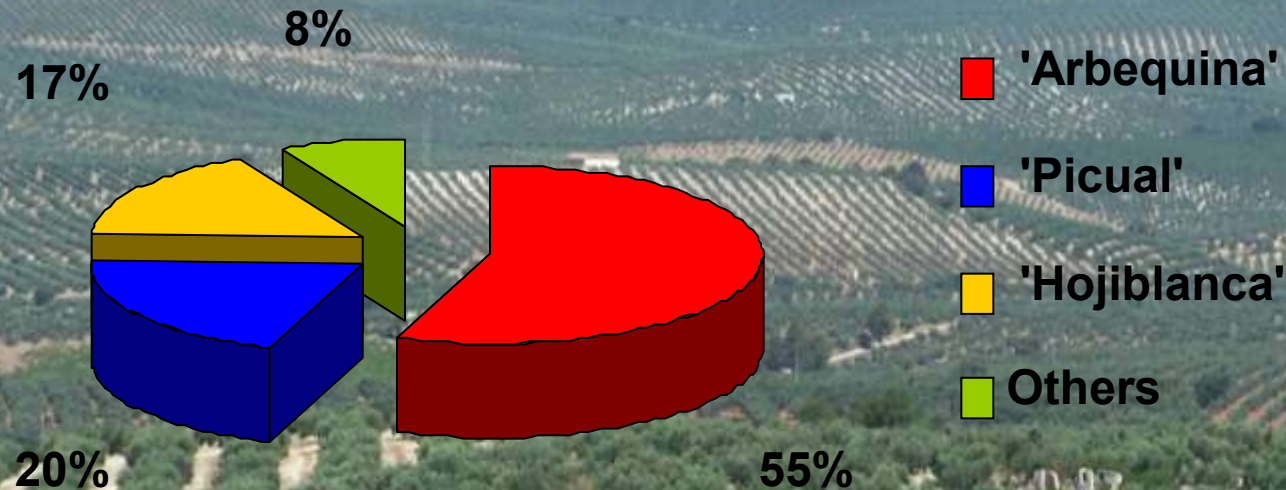


## Modern olive orchards: Mechanical harvesting



## **NEW TRENDS: Distribution of olive varieties**

### **Nursery plant production in Andalucia**



**Loss of genetic diversity of local cultivars**

**Genetic erosion risk**

***Useful diversity source against : Xylella fastidiosa***



## **Diversity source: new and adverse climate changes**

### **High temperatures and Scarce pluviometry**

- **Cultivars from geographic areas with very low water availability which confers them high resistance to drought.**
- **Genotypes with flowering and production capacities under very diverse environmental conditions (relatively high winter temperatures).**



# MANAGEMENT OF GENETIC RESOURCES

**Knowledge and conservation of genetic resources**



***Ex situ* conservation: GERMPLASM BANKS**



## **CULTIVATED OLIVE**

**100 olive collections**

**54 countries**

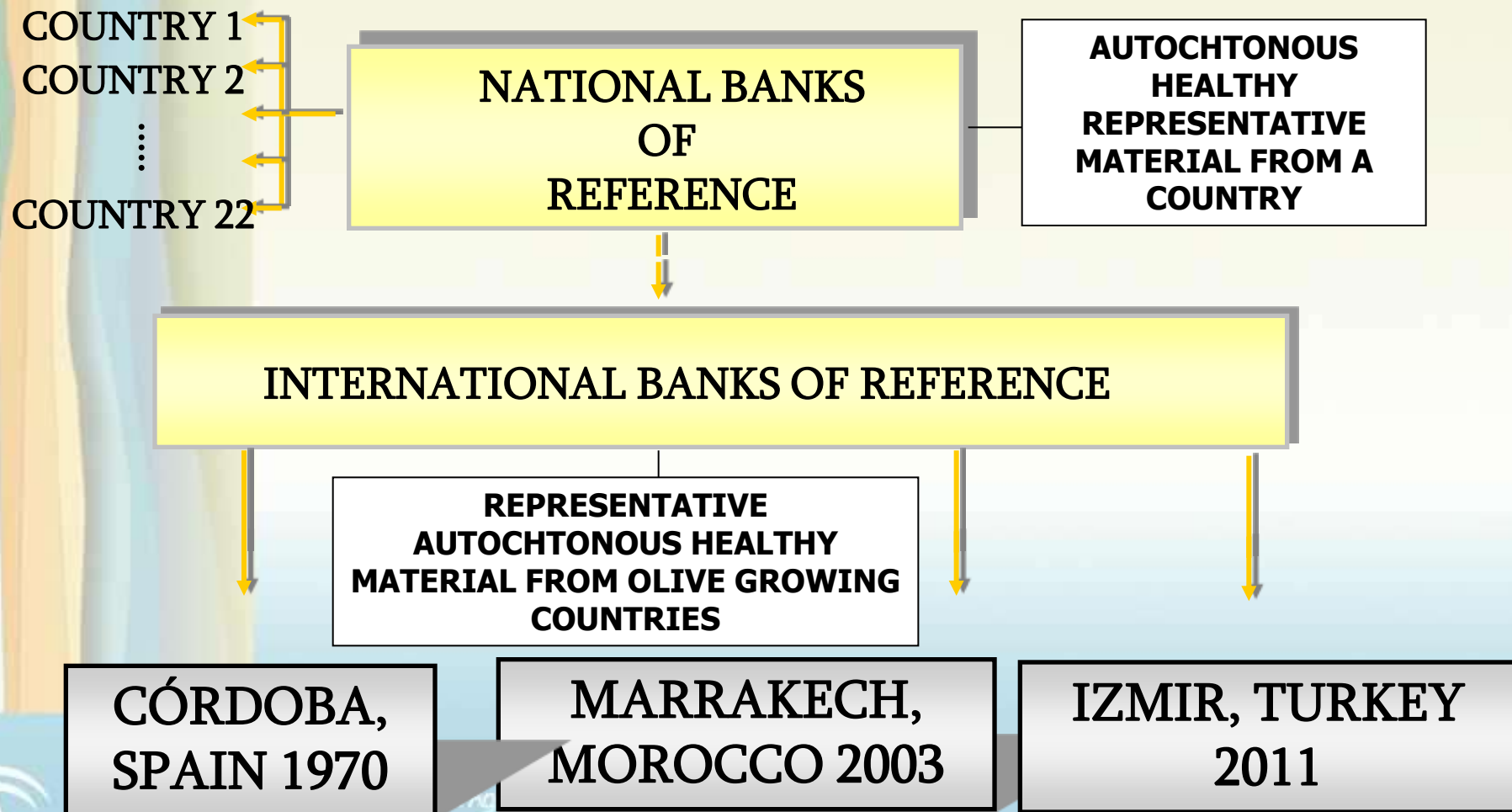
**1250 Cultivars**

**(3000 different names)**

*Bartolini et al. 2008*

# Network of Germplasm Banks IOC-FAO (1996)

RESGEN CT/ 96-97 PROJECT (UE-IOC)

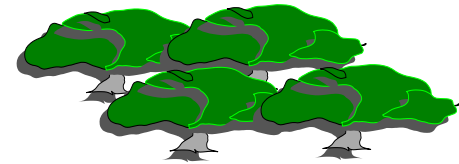




# GERMPLASM BANKS

## OBJECTIVES

- ❧ To preserve in collection all plant material considered to be different on regional, national or world levels
- ❧ To study the variability of the species through systematic agronomical evaluation
- ❧ To document genotypes



Selection

COMPARATIVE TRIALS  
(VARIETIES OR PLANT STOCKS)

GENETIC BREEDING

## Establishment and use of a common morphological schedule

28 Characters



11 endocarp



10 fruit



4 leaves

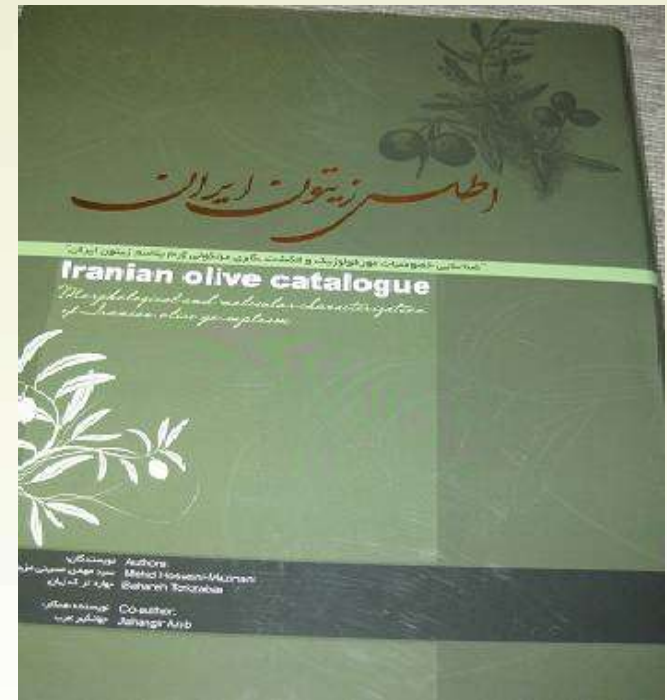
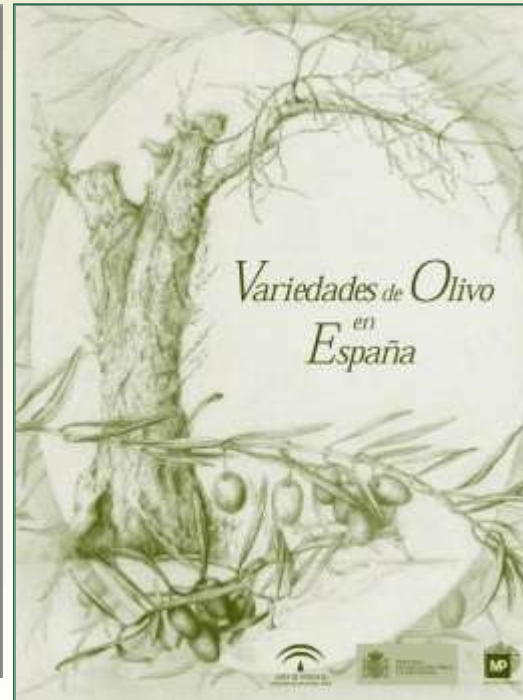
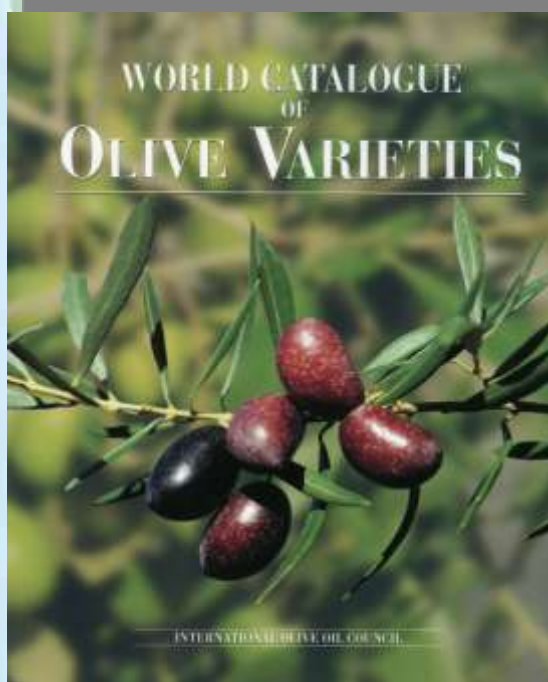


3 tree

**EU-IOC Resgen results 2011: 1100 accessions recovered and characterised**

([www.internationaloliveoil.org/resgen/index.html](http://www.internationaloliveoil.org/resgen/index.html))

## Establishment and use of a common morphological schedule



### IOC (2000)

139 cultivars

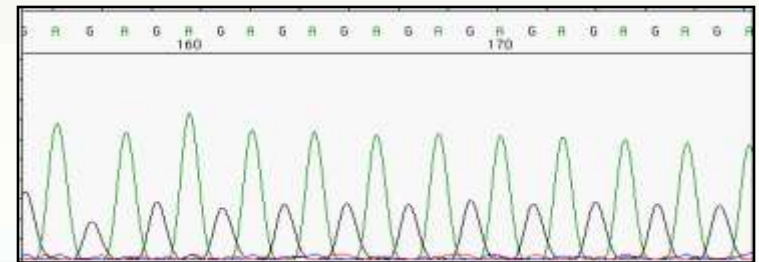
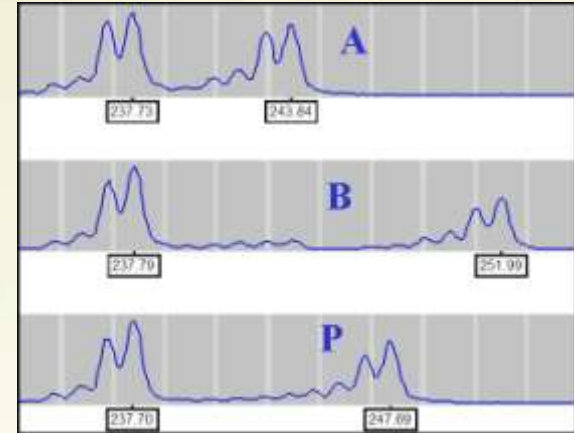
23 Countries

**Endocarp and fruit traits more discriminative and stable: authentication**

*Spain (Barranco et al., 2005); Algeria (Mendil and Sebai, 2006); Albania (Ismaili et al., 2012); Greece (Kostelenos, 2011); France (Moutier et al., 2004); Italy (Perri et al., 2003; Muzzalupo et al., 2010); Tunisia (Trigui et al., 2002; 2006), Hosseini-Mazinani et al 2013) etc*

## GENETIC MARKERS

- **BIOCHEMICAL MARKERS (isozymes)**
- **DNA MARKERS**



- No environmental influence
- Good coverage of the genome
- Evaluation in early phases of plant growth
- Complementary tools/morphology

# CHARACTERIZATION OF OLIVE GERMPLASM

ARBEQUINA

BLANQUETA

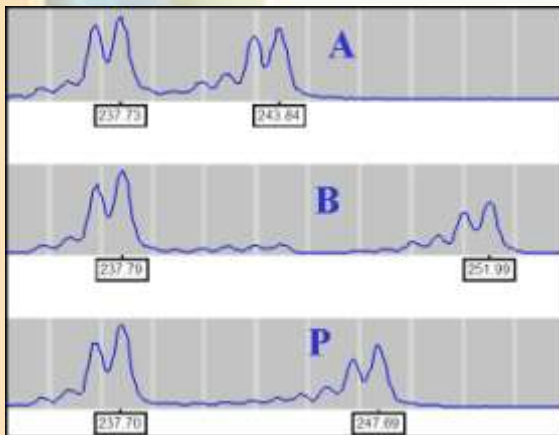


**DNA Markers use:**

**Management of germplasm collections**

**Cultivar Identification**

**Genetic variability and relationships**

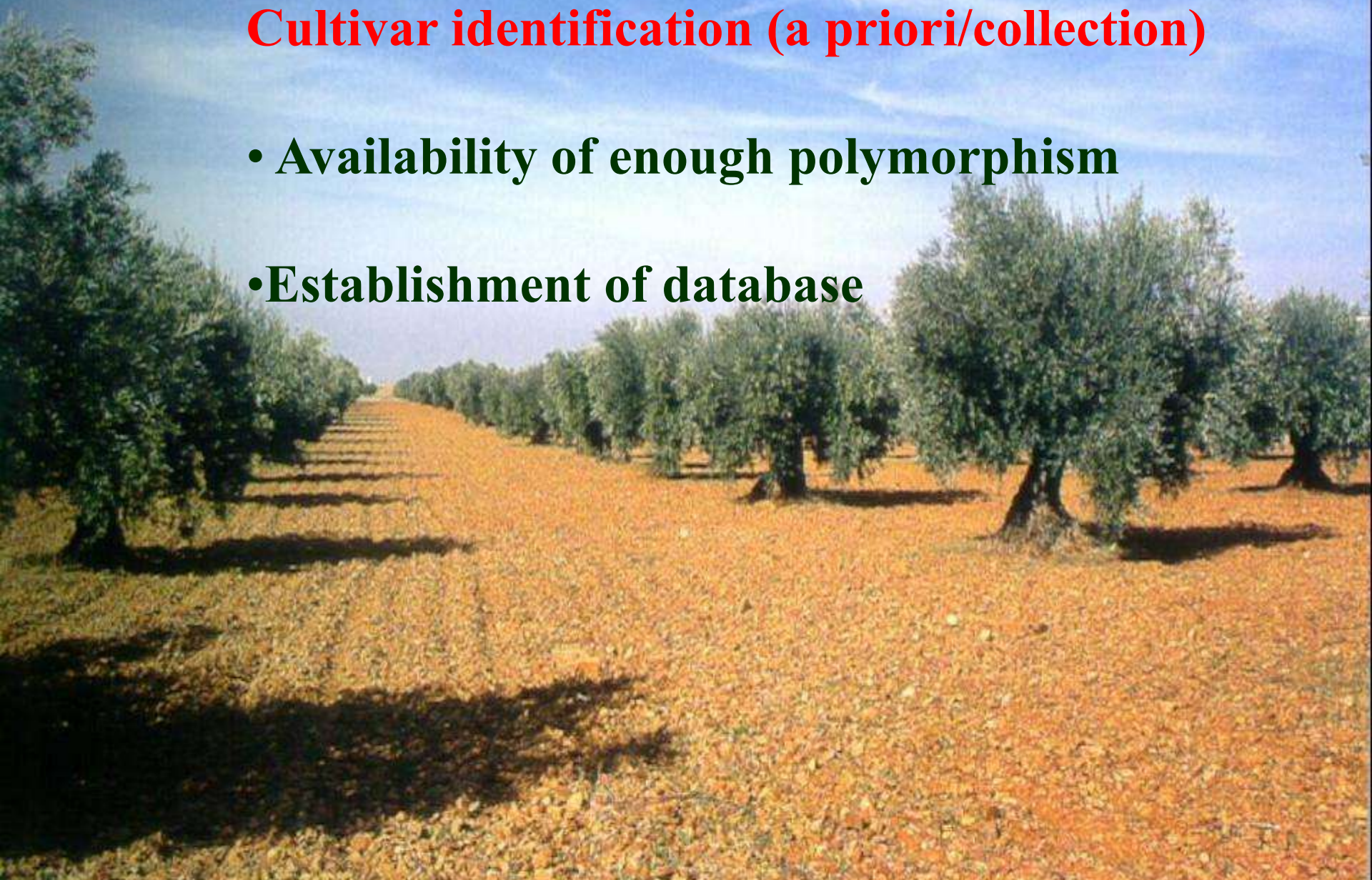


*(Sarri et al., 2006; Noormohammadi et al. 2007; 2014; Alba et al., 2009; Erre et al.2010; Fendri et al., 2010; Belaj et al. 2012; Chalak et al., 2012; Linos et al., 2014; Trujillo et al., 2014; Brake et al, 2014; Beghé et al. 2015; Lasović et al. 2016)*

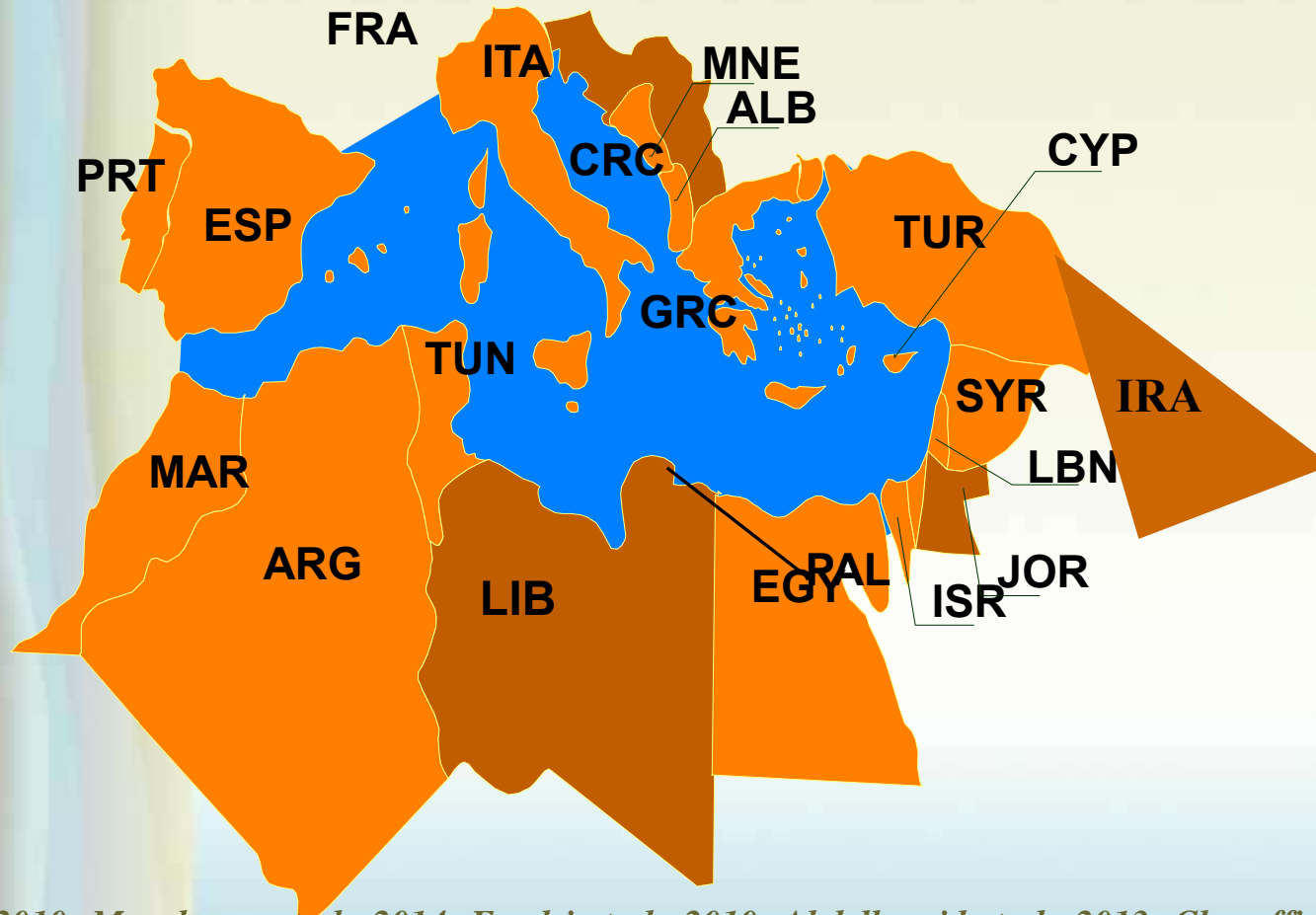
# MANAGEMENT OF GERMPLASM COLLECTIONS

## **Cultivar identification (a priori/collection)**

- **Availability of enough polymorphism**
- **Establishment of database**



# Cultivar identification of national and international collections



*(Soleri et al. 2010; Muzaluppo et al., 2014; Fendri et al., 2010; Abdelhamid et al., 2013; Charaffi et al., 2008; Basheer-Salimia et al., 2009; Dag et al., 2012; Dominguez et al., 2012; Linos et al., 2014; Haouane et al., 2011; Brake et al., 2014; Mousavi et al., 2014; Noormohammadi et al., 2007; 2014; Chalak et al., 2012; Kaya et al., 2013; Atienza et al., 2013; Sadeeg S.A. 2014; Trujillo et al., 2014; Abdessemed et al., 2015; Beghé et al. 2015; Lasović et al. 2016)*

## **Cultivar identification of national and international collections**

- **Errors due to generic naming of cultivars**

**Homonyms: Manzanilla, Lechín, Gordal, Picual, Toffahi, bardhë, Bjelica.**

**Synonyms: ‘Cakir’- ‘Valanolia’; ‘Cañivano Blanco’- ‘Picholin Marrocaïne’ ‘Manzanilla de Sevilla’- ‘Redondil’**

- **Prospecting redundancies**
- **Plant propagation errors or mislabelling (donor or receptor collection)**
- **Possible somatic mutations (intracultivar diversity)**



# GENETIC DIVERSITY



## High molecular variability

- regional level
- country level
- Mediterranean level
- within group variability

## High genetic diversity

- country level

**>200 genotypes propected/studied**

**Around 100 cultivars (Many Local ones)**

**High genetic diversity**

**Differentiation with the world olive cultivars**



*(Noormohammadi et al. 2007; 2014; Mazinani et al., 2013; Mousavi et al. 2014 etc)*

## GENETIC RELATIONSHIPS

### ➤ **Clustering according to geographical origin**

*Besnard et al. 2001<sup>a</sup>; Belaj et al. 2002;2003; 2004, Angiolillo et al. 2006; Sarri et al., 2006; Linos et al., 2014*

### ➤ **Clustering according to fruit size**

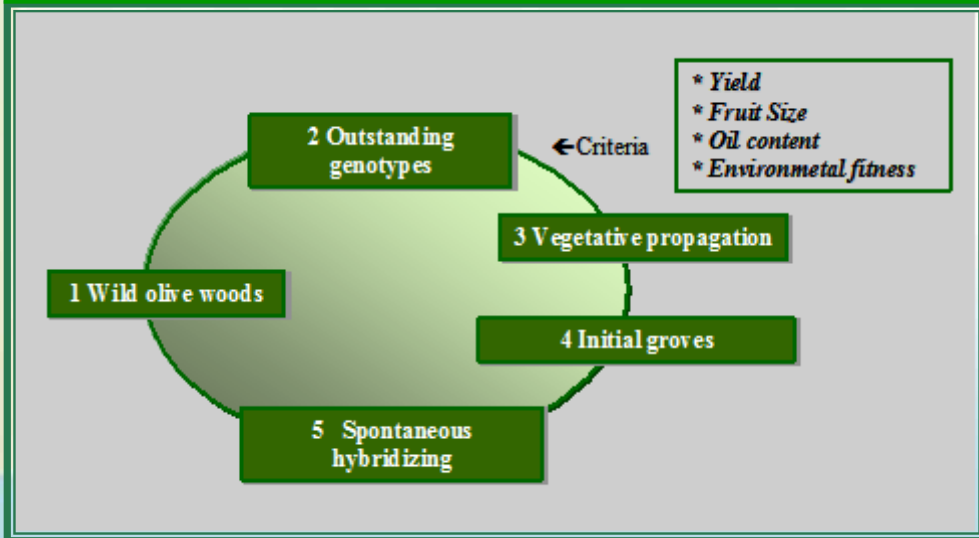
*Hagidimitriou et al. 2005; Grati-Kamoun et al. 2006; Nikoloudakis et al. 2003; Montemurro et al. 2005*

### ➤ **Multilocal selection of olive cultivars**

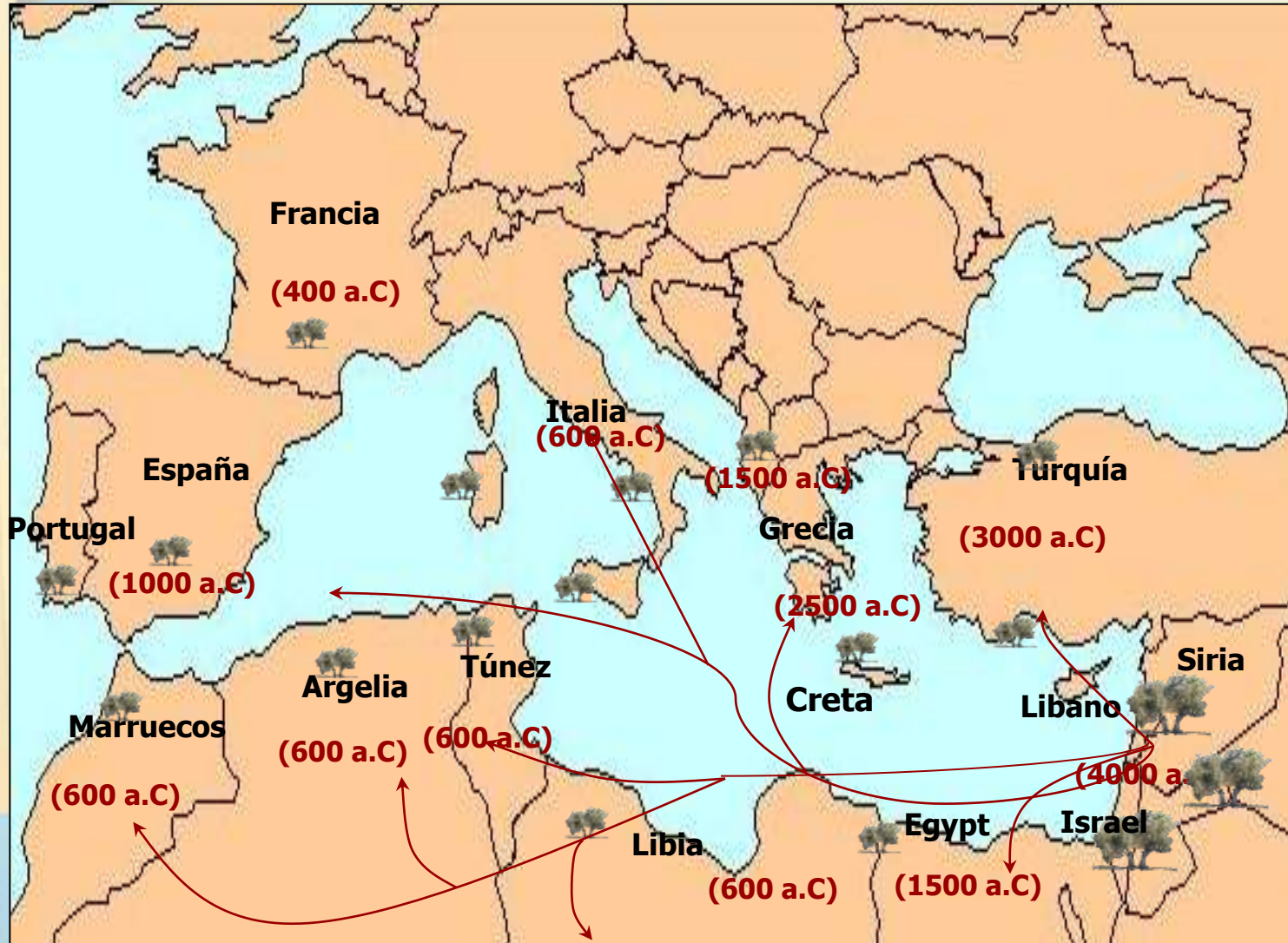
**influence of human migrations**

**crosses between local and foreign germplasm**

## Local selection of cultivars



## East to West diffusion of olive cultivars/Local selection West



## PHENOTYPING EVALUATIONS

- **At the collection level:**
- **Evaluation of many cultivars (the same environment)**
- **A general view on agronomic diversity**
  
- **Still limited information**
- **Delay collection/cultivar evaluation**
- **Many years of trait evaluations**
- **Common evaluation schedule**

**Vigor**

**Production**

**Phenology**

**Pomology**

**Olive oil quality**

**Rooting Ability**

**Biotic & Abiotic Resistance**

## Fruit related traits

### WEIGHT

**‘Gordal Sevillana’**  
**‘Real Sevillana’**  
**‘Ocal’**  
**‘Morisca’**  
**‘Hojiblanca’**  
**‘Picudo’**



### FRUIT/STONE

**‘M. del Piquito’**  
**‘M. Cacereña’**  
**‘M. De Sevilla’**  
**‘Gordal Sevillana’**  
**‘Changlot Real’**  
**‘Hojiblanca’**

### % Olive oil d.m

**‘Chalkidiki’, ‘Coratina’**  
**‘Bolvino’, ‘Morrut’, ‘Zaity’**

# Olive oil characterization



**-Acid composition, polyphenols; - Sensorial Characterization**





Evaluation under Controlled conditions

## TOLERANCIA A VERTICILIOSIS

Non Defoliated (V4) or Defoliated (V117)

**-resistent or less susceptibles: ‘Frantoio’, ‘Empeltre’, ‘Changlot Real’, ‘Grosal de Albocafér’, ‘Kato Drys’, ‘Manzanilla Picua’, ‘Sevillana de Abla’ etc**

**- Controlled and Field conditions**



Evaluación en Condiciones Controladas

**TOLERANCIA A REPILO**  
*Spilocaea oleaginea* (Cast.)

- 48 resistent: ‘Arbosana’, ‘Frantoio’, ‘Galega Vulgar’, Lechín de Sevilla’



Evaluación en Condiciones Controladas

**TOLERANCIA A LA ANTRACNOSIS**  
(*Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*, Von Arx (aceituna jabonosa))

- 'Picual' mas resistente que 'Hojiblanca' y 'Picudo'

**Evaluación en Condiciones  
Controladas**

## **TOLERANCIA A CLOROSIS FÉRRICA**

### **Variedades evaluadas**

**- 34, BGM- IFAPA**

**- 7 tolerantes: ‘Nevadillo Negro de Jaén’, ‘Pajarero’, ‘Manzanilla de Sevilla’, ‘Blanqueta’, ‘Carolea’, ‘Acebuchera’, ‘Morisca’**





Evaluación en Condiciones Controladas

## TOLERANCIA AL FRIO

### Variedades evaluadas

- 37, BGM-IFAPA

- 10 tolerantes: ‘Mollar de Cieza’, ‘Farga’, ‘Lucio’, ‘Gordal S.’, ‘Arbequina’

## **PHENOTYPING EVALUATIONS**

- **At the collection level:**
- **Identification of local and allochthonous cultivars with outstanding agronomic performance/the same environment conditions**
- **Molecular+agronomic diversity: selection of parents for breeding**
- **Few replications/genotypes**
- **Environmentally dependent agronomic traits**

## **PHENOTYPING EVALUATIONS**

### **Need of Field Comparative trials**

- **Different agro-climatic conditions**
- **Many replications per genotype**
- **Diversification of olive orchards : local/foreign cultivars**
- **Very useful information for the farmers**
- **Contribute to a better use of olive genetic resources**
- **Not extensively used/scarced published results**

**The most efficient way to determine the best suited cultivars/area**

## Diversify varietal offer



- Farmers properties
- IFAPA Centres
- Verticilosis trials

- **Comparative trials of olive oil cultivars**
- **Comparative trials of Verticilium Resistance**
- **Comparative trials of table olive cultivars**



## **Olive Germplasm Collections**

- **High number of varieties maintained**
- **High genetic and phenotypic diversity**
- **Useful information for olive orchards diversification**
- **Ideal base for olive breeding**



# The need of new olive cultivars

Olive growing in a new era: New diversity



# OLIVE BREEDING

## REASONS

- Most cultivated varieties are centennial
- Not adapted to the new olive growing systems
- Quality characteristics are far from optimum

## DIFFICULTIES

- Long juvenile period (10-15 years)
- Lack of knowledge about inheritance of the main agronomic traits



**14 breeding programs/Different objectives**

# Objectives

**High productivity**

**Olive oil quality**

**Suitability to different orchard systems**

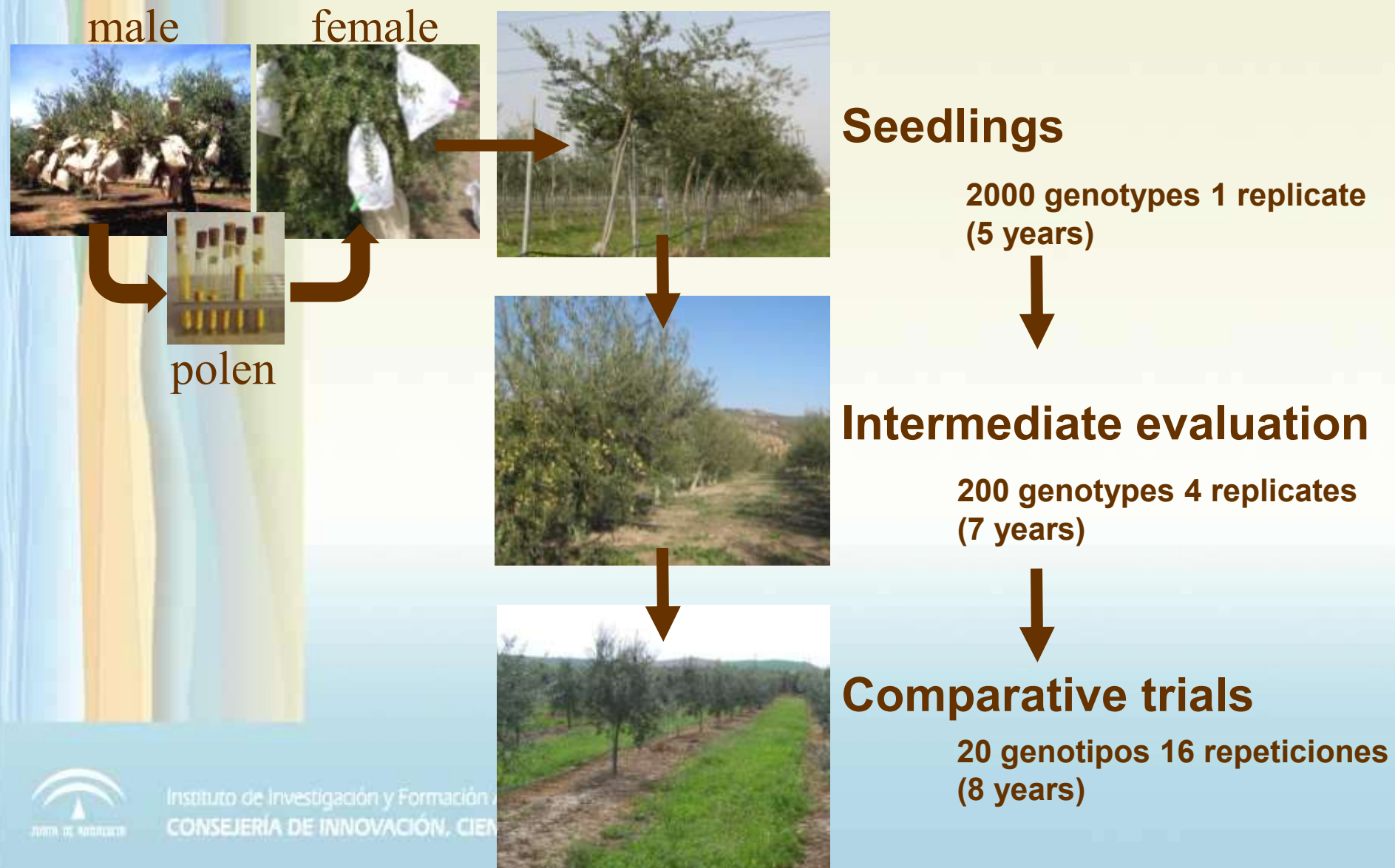
**Reducing of labor cost (harvesting)**

**Resistance to pest and diseases**

**Adjustment to different and extreme environmental conditions**



## Olive breeding program protocol



**More than 20 cultivars with relevant commercial use**

**All of them come from crosses between cultivars**

**HIGH AVAILIABLE DIVERSITY/LOW USE**



**2006-2014: Interesting wild olive genotypes**

# Wild olives (*Olea europaea* subsp. *europaea* var. *sylvestris*)



**Wild/cultivated**

**$2n=2x=46$**

**Interfertile**

**Wind pollination**

**Seed dispersion**

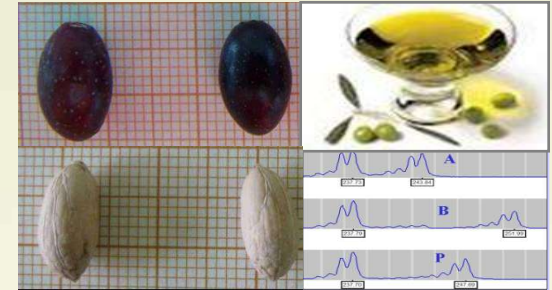
**New source of variability**

# DIVERSITY OF HABITATS, SHAPES AND DIMENSIONS





- *In situ* evaluation of wild olives



## Morphological and agronomical evaluation

*(Mulas et al. 2004; Hannachi et al., 2009; Belaj et al. 2011)*

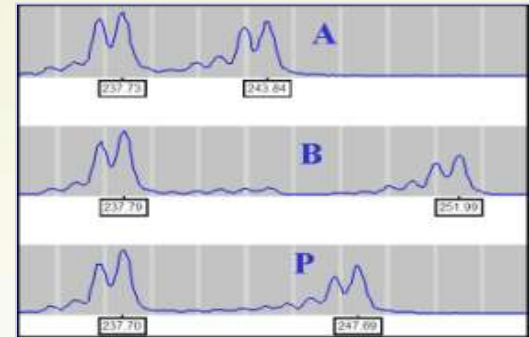
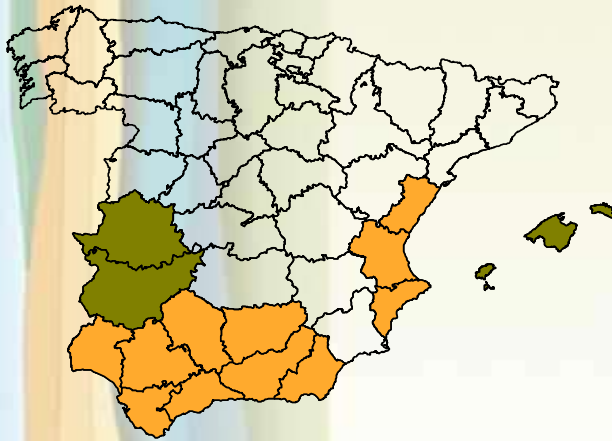
## Genetic diversity and genetic relationships

*(Lumaret et al., 2004; Besnard et al. 2008; 2014; Hannachi et al. 2008; Belaj et al. 2007; 2010)*

## Information on the history of olive domestication

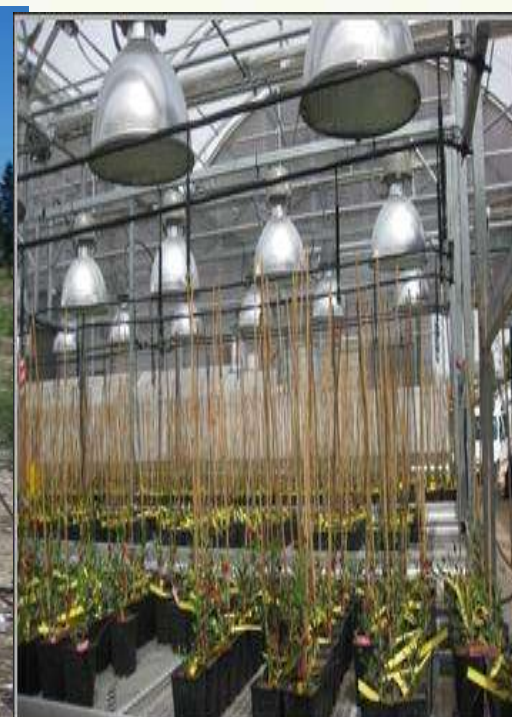
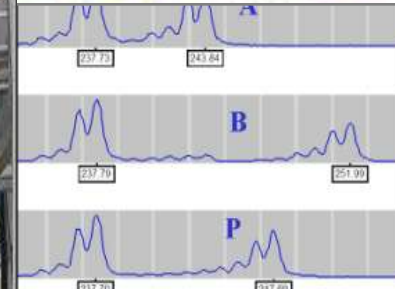
*(Breton et al., 2006; Besnard et al. 2008; 2014<sup>a, b</sup>; Belaj et al., 2010)*

- The establishment of a collection of wild olives in the field (IFAPA, Córdoba)
- *Ex situ* Molecular and phenotypic characterization of wild olives



# Wild olives and genetic diversity

- ❑ High genetic diversity of wild olive population
- ❑ Differentiation between wild and cultivated olives
- ❑ Presence of genuine wild olive forest in Mediterranean basin
- ❑ Useful source of resistance to biotic and abiotic stress
- ❑ Use as parents in breeding crosses or as rootstocks



# Olive genetic resources: related subspecies

*Olea cerasiformis*



*Olea guanchica*



*Olea guanchica*



*Olea maroccana*



*Olea cuspidata*



**Ancient olive trees: Cultivated and wilds**



# Ancient olive trees

- Historical, cultural, landscape, and economical value**
- Vulnerability and expoliation risks**
- New sources of genetic diversity maintained *in situ/on farm***
- Local unknown ancient cultivars and landraces**  
**(Andalusia: 90% unknown local cultivars)**

**Rich genetic patrimony:**

Protection (fisical, legal, education)

Combination of in situ(on farm) and ex situ conservation

Agronomical evaluation



Sicily



Palestine



Iran



Croatia

**North Eastern Spain: The power of farmers' union**



**Territorio de Senia: 2000km<sup>2</sup>**

(Catalonia, Valencia and Aragon)

**4,526 ancient olive trees**

**Olive oil comercialisation**





## **In olive we do have a rich genetic patrimony**

- **Traditional Cultivars (main and local)**
- **New cultivars from breeding**
- **Wild olive populations/related subspecies**
- **Ancient trees**

**But what about olive cultivation sustainability?**

# Current situation of the olive orchards

## Patrimony:

10 to 11 million ha  
≈1 000 million olive trees

## Distribution:

Land of mountains, hills, plains, cold climates, semi-arid and arid zones, desert.

## Characteristics of the growing systems

Growing system	Density (trees/ha)	Productivity (kg/ha)
Marginal	<80	≤1 000
Traditional	80-150	1 500-3 000
Intensive	200-450	5 000-7 000
	<i>(irrigated</i>	<i>8 000-12 000)</i>
High density	1 500-2 500	8 000-12 000

# Marginal orchards



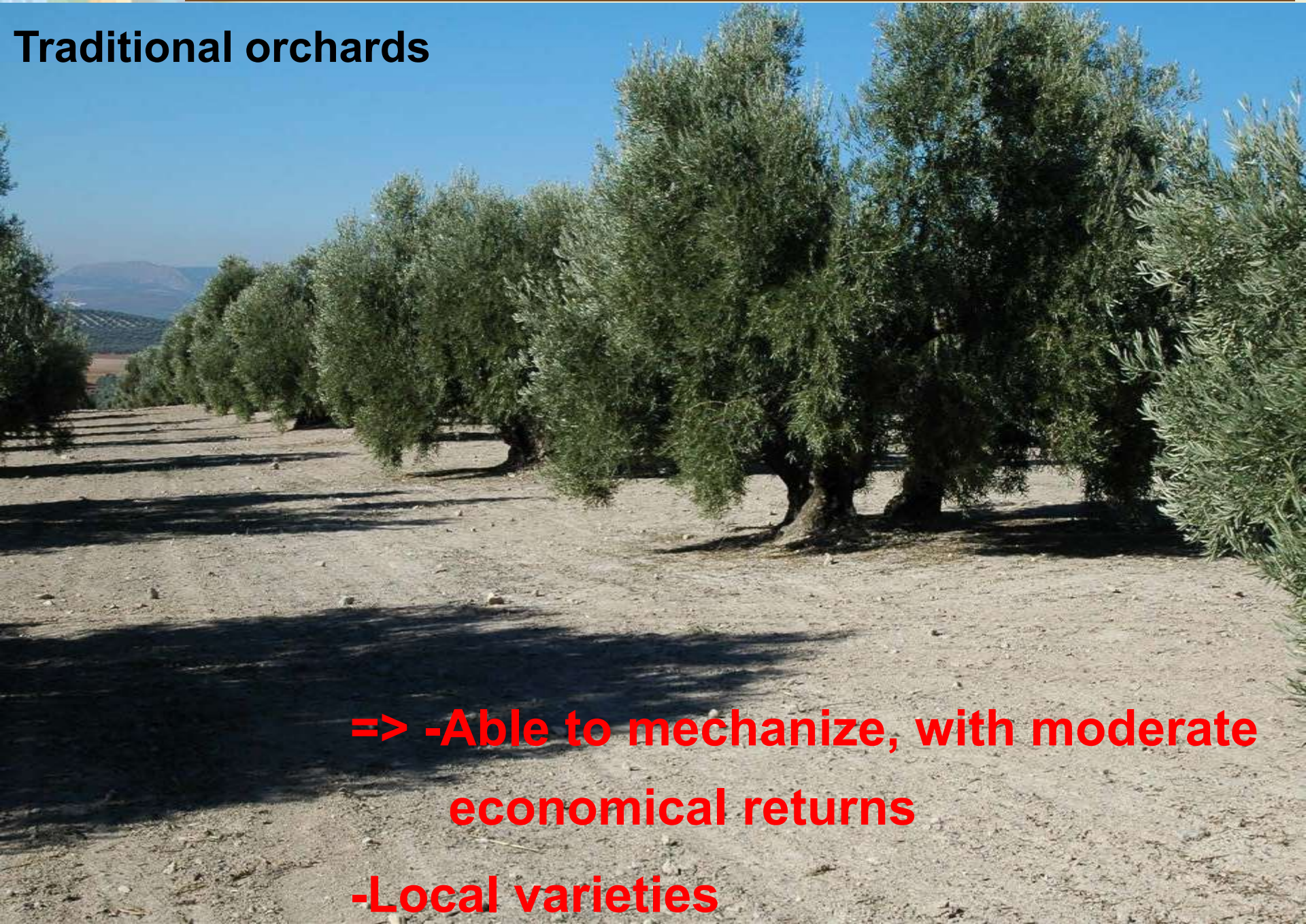
**=> -Low inputs, no mechanization and very low profitability.**

**-Local varieties**

# Marginal orchards



## Traditional orchards



- => -Able to mechanize, with moderate economical returns**
- Local varieties**

# Traditional orchards



# Intensive Orchards



- => -Training with single trunks for mechanical harvesting**
- Usually irrigated, with continuous pruning**
- Tendency to reduce the number of varieties**
- The most common planting system in modern orchards**



# Intensive Orchards



# Intensive Orchards



570 trees/ha (7x2.5m) → 285 trees/ha (7x5m)

# High density orchards



2 000 trees/ha (3.75x1.35m)

# High density orchards

- 
- The image shows a vast, terraced orchard on a hillside. The trees are planted in very close, parallel rows, creating a dense, green landscape. The perspective is from an elevated position, looking down the slope. The trees appear to be young and are in the early stages of growth. The overall scene is a well-organized agricultural plantation.
- =>-Hedgerow planting, drip irrigated**
  - Low cost of harvest and early bearing**
  - High investment cost and short life**
  - Few varieties adapted and difficult tree size control**

# **Key factors determining the evolution of the growing systems**

**Sustainability of cultural practices**

**New harvesting solutions**

**Pest and diseases management**

**New varieties**

## • **Sustainability of cultural practices**

**Good practices of pruning (form and maintain the trees)**

**Soil management to reduce its erosion: use of cover crop**

**Irrigation: Strong response of olive tree yield but need to define water requirements as precisely as possible**

**Fertilisation: Leaf-nutrient analysis provides an indication of tree nutritional status and for determining fertilization requirements**

## PRUNING



- Maintain an **adequate leaf-wood ratio**.
- Respect **the natural trend of the variety**
- Carry out **rejuvenation pruning when necessary**
- Recycling of **pruners** in specialization courses

# **New harvesting solutions**

**Need of adaptation of the tree to mechanical harvesting**

**Development of mechanical pruning to achieve integral mechanization and cost reduction**

**Increase efficiency and reduce fruit damage in mechanical harvesting of table olives**

**Need to release new varieties adapted to mechanical harvesting**



## **Nursery plant identification and certification**



### **Spain**

**2002-2005: 1086 samples**

**Molecular markers**

**10% of identification errors**



**Australia: Identification of mother plants**

**(Rehman A et al., 2012; Trujillo et al., in press)**

## Conclusions

- Need of a better knowledge, management and exploitation of cultivated , wild olive genetic resources and ancient trees.**
- Need of accurate genotyping and phenotyping of germplasm collections and establishment of comparative trials with national and foreign cultivars**
- Reduce of the gap between the huge genetic patrimony available in olive and its use.**
- Olive breeding programs need to be promoted and developed in olive growing countries.**
- Need to use sustainable cultural practices to better respond to the clear tendency of intensification of olive growing**
- Need of Collaboration at all levels**



*Sustainable use of olive genetic  
diversity for the future*

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

To all the generations of Mediterranean area and beyond areas for the great genetic olive diversity, selected and maintained through the long history of olive cultivation



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**The International Olive Council and the Iranian Ministry of  
Agriculture e Jihad**

**To: Ms. Azizi & Mr. Arab**

**Dr. Hoseini-Mazinani**

**IFAPA & UCO colleagues**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

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