Cocoon, a biodegradable flowerpot contributes to reforestation

LOCATION: Chirivel (Almería)
DURATION:1'57"

SUMMARY: Investigators of the Andalusia Center of the Evaluation and Monitoring of Global Change (CAESCG) at the University of Almeria collaborate in a European project that utilizes 'Cocoon', an underground biodegradable flowerpot for the reforestation and the socioeconomic development of cold semi-arid zones within the inland area of Almeria. This method helps keep alive the species during their first year of planting, the most critical year. They are planting ecological almond trees to help the agricultural economy of the zone as well as address the plants in danger of extinction.

VTR:

This kind of flowerpot is a Dutch invention called 'Cocoon', and it helps boost the growth of trees in areas at risk of desertification.The Andalusia Center of the Evaluation and Monitoring of Global Change (CAESDG) at the University of Almería is testing its effectiveness at the National Park of Sierra María-Los Vélez, one of the six European sites picked to carry out the LIFE Green Link project.

Hermelindo Castro
Director CAESCG

"The objective has two parts: first is to contribute to the economic and social development of the picked region while testing a series of almond trees that we consider will be resistant to climate change, and secondly, let's say, is to rescue species in danger of extinction."

Inés Gutiérrez
Researcher

"In 11 hectares, 2,000 almond trees are to be planted, a productive species that helps the sustainable development of the area and another 2,000 species, under which the cypress of Cartagena is involved, a species that has disappeared from the area, and that is a kind of Murcia and taray."

This biodegradable system that replaces the traditional watering systems is being testedby planting two varieties of almond trees, in order to help farmers of the region, which has the largest organic production of almond in the world. The flowerpot, which contains water, fertilizer and ecological rooting, helps the plant in its first year of life, the most critical.

INÉS GUTIÉRREZ
Researcher

"There are different sensors at 5 points in the area where they are sending all the information of the soil moisture and the water filtration rate of the Cocoon to a solar panel that is in the center of the plantation and that panel sends the information directly to an online platform."

Throughout the next 4 years, the University will follow a socio-ecological monitoring of the zones by conducting surveysamong the population over the current and future vision of the landscape.

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