

Olive oil producers from Jaén choose pistachio as an alternative to single-crop farming

LOCATION: Comarca El Condado (Jaén)

DURATION: 1'41''

SUMMARY: The province of Jaén has the appropriate conditions to cultivate the pistachio, and since 2013, an association has dedicated its time to developing this crop, which arrived in Spain at the end of the 20th century. In 2 years, the association has begun production with 200 small farmers, and dedicates 250 hectares to the cultivation of the pistachio, which serves as a complement to olive groves because of its high profitability in production.

VTR

Julián Navarro is an olive-oil producer, but the prices and the irregular harvests have made him look for alternatives to single-crop farming.

Julián Navarro
President of Appistaco

"To live solely on one crop each year is a problem. If with this we reach two crops per year, one in September and the other in December, well, we have realized that this can be very viable".

They have chosen the pistachio, an expensive fruit whose production in Spain barely covers the national demand. It has more advantages.

Julián Navarro
President of APPISTACO

"It is a crop that adapts very well to Jaén, to the zone, we have the ideal climate for its development and for the great demand that the fruit has".

Francisco Carrasco
Farmer

"For its adaptation to the soil, because it is sold at a high price, because the machinery that we use is more or less what we use for the olive."

The first plantation in Spain was located in Jaén in the 1980s, but notable attempts to introduce this cultivation had not been made until 2013. The new producers are spreading this cultivation, which must share this land with 66 million olive trees.

Julián Navarro
President of APPISTACO

"The association is going to count on, when we close the season, 250 hectares throughout the province."

In their expansion they rely on institutional support, technical support and the practical results of this experimental plantation.

Javier Padilla
Manager 'Los Berruelos' farm

"Six years ago, when we made the plantation, they showed a lot of interest asking about the pistachio. They didn't know what the plant was or its properties. Then many were interested by the tree. Two years ago they started to show interest in the crop."

While the trees grow, the farmers have started to plan the next phase: a processing plant run by these same people, to develop production and commercialization in parallel.