


LIFE+ Project "Crops for better soil"

LIFE10 ENV/ES/471 - "Environmental Policy and Governance"



<p>Summary</p> 	<p>"Crops for better soil" is an ambitious project that is going to cultivate in 400 hectares without irrigation in four different areas in Spain (Castilla la Mancha, Castilla y León, Aragón and Catalonia). The aim is to demonstrate on a significant scale and with innovative measurement technologies that application of particular organic farming techniques can improve soil fertility by 20%. Meanwhile it will increase yields with the same percentage through optimal combinations of methodologies targeted to the specific soils and climatic conditions concerned. Furthermore the project utilizes crop rotation, compost fertilization and re-introduction of traditional crops. During the project's lifetime chemical fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides and genetically modified crops aren't used. The farmers who participate in the project will receive professional training about ecological production during and after the project's lifetime.</p> <p>The areas and farmers involved in this project will differentiate in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weather and soil types - Type of crops (cereals, forages, oil seeds for energy, etc) - Type of agriculture machinery - Farmers motivation for organic agriculture <p>The common element is that all farmers wish to be different by offering better products with added value and without depending on the European subsidies. Moreover, they're all concerned about the importance of carbon sequestration in proper laboured lands.</p> <p>The implementation of this project will offer data that prove the suitability of these methods and the possibility of agricultural profitability without any EU support. Furthermore it will demonstrate the persistence of the monoculture problem and the inappropriate use of lands resulting in poor, dry and unproductive soils. This project restores the chemical and biological composition of the soils in order to create more productive lands in the future.</p>
<p>Execution</p>	<p>October 2011 - September 2016</p>
<p>Budget</p>	<p>€ 3.556.642</p>
<p>Life+ subsidy</p>	<p>€ 1.729.070</p>

Responsible

Main responsibilities

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<p>Principal partner</p> <p>1 TRANSATI www.transati.eu</p> 	<p>Mariano Saz Anchelo (General Director)</p>	<p>General organization Responsible of budget and finance Responsible of crops and monitoring Responsible of data recollection</p>
<p>Partners</p> <p>2 Transfer Consultancy www.transfer-lbc.com</p> 	<p>Sven Kallen (General Director)</p>	<p>General organization Responsible of budget Agriculture training coordination Final Congress Organization Responsible of dissemination</p>
<p>3 Universidad Politecnica de Madrid www.upm.es</p> 	<p>Gonzalo León Serrano (Vice-Rector)</p>	<p>Crops planning Scientific study methodology Scientific study Dissemination of information</p>
<p>4 Asociacion Vida Sana www.vidasana.org</p> 	<p>Angeles Parra (General Director)</p>	<p>Organic agriculture training Permanent training while the project's lifetime</p>
<p>5 Medusa Explorations B.V. www.medusa-online.com</p> 	<p>Han Limburg (General Director)</p>	<p>Crops planning Dissemination of information</p> <p>Collection Methodology for crops and land data Soil analysis Data interpretation Dissemination of information</p>