

## Portugal expects historic olive production this season

Portugal expects record production of olives this season for the production of olive oil up to 765,000 tons, the third largest record of the last 75 years, as reports the monthly bulletin of the Portuguese National Institute of Agriculture and Fisheries Statistics with data to January 31st.

About to finish the harvest, the agency estimates a "significant" increase in the production of olives this year (+ 75%) regarding the previous year, which was less productive and reached a volume of 438,000 tons.

However, the Institute stressed that this increase has not been uniform across all regions and it depends mainly on intensive olive plantations.

In this sense, on the one hand, the lack of rain damaged the production of traditional dryland olive groves and on the other, it also lowered the pressure of fungal diseases wich has allowed irrigated olive groves to reach their full potential production, providing the best campaign of the last five decades.

In fact, according to the agency, the restructuration of the production system, particularly in the Alentejo (that in the last 10 years has increased the area by more than 13,000 hectares), with the planting of intensive olive varieties, being very productive and equipped with irrigation-systems, and a more agronomically sound management (less severe pruning and appropriate pesticide treatments) has allowed boosting domestic olive oil production to levels that rival those achieved during the last century.

The Institute has also stated that the olives came to the mills in good sanitary condition, allowing a production of olive oil with low acidity and good organoleptic characteristics.

Meanwhile, the yield of the olive has also been higher than the previous year.

Source : <http://en.mercacei.com/noticia/1239/news/portugal-expects-historic-olive-production-this-season.html>