

Spain has the most productive olive groves in the world, according to a study

A research project, developed under the Olive Oil MBA of the International University of Andalusia (UNIA) and executed under the scientific prescription of professor and strategic consultant Juan Vilar, has concluded that the most productive olive groves in the world, regarding 56 producing countries, are those in Spain, with an average of 530 kg. of oil per hectare for the last 10 campaigns.

However, according to this study, in the field of competitiveness the results have not been similar, since Spain occupies a position that is far below the average, mainly due to the nature of most of its traditional olive groves.

Returning to the productivity of the olive groves, Spain is followed by Italy (322 kg./ha.), Portugal (262 kg./ha.), Greece (252 kg./ha.) and Syria (220 kg./ha.).

A fact that demonstrates this advantage of Spain in productivity is that, boasting a quarter of the world's olive grove, it produces almost half the oil produced on the planet. However, in isolation, the country with the highest productivity is Australia, with almost 650 kg. of olive oil per hectare in the 2015/16 season, although when the other elements of the series are integrated, the new plantations decrease the average to a greater extent for this country, compared to the traditional olive grove in the Spanish case.

On the other hand, the global area of olive groves is concentrated by 70% in only five countries: Spain (24%), Tunisia (17%), Italy (11%), Greece (10%) and Morocco (9%).

Juan Vilar, director of the research study, highlights that "according to the data obtained and the evolution, and in no more than a decade, taking into account the current trend of evolution, the first position, in both productivity and competitiveness, is located on the Portuguese olive groves."

Vilar, as well as being co-director of the master's degree in which the study was carried out, is a strategic consultant, professor at the University of Jaén and an international expert in olive oil economics.

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