

Spain: Canary Islands want to produce passion fruit all year round

Researchers from the Canary Institute of Agricultural Research (ICIA), an institution under the Council of Agriculture of the Government of the Canary Islands, are carrying out a study, funded by the Autonomous Region, to promote the cultivation of passion fruit in the archipelago.

The tests carried out show that in certain locations of the islands, and with the appropriate cultivation techniques, it is possible to have relatively short production cycles and obtain large volumes of good quality fruit practically all year round.

Despite the fruit not being well-known among the vast majority of consumers, it is recording an increase in the demand, both locally and for export. This may entail an opportunity for producers in the archipelago, which stands out for its potential in the cultivation of subtropical and tropical fruit trees.

The consumer who starts to buy this product usually becomes loyal to a greater or lesser extent, depending on the fruit's availability, the retail prices and the knowledge of its nutritional properties and possibilities for use.

Thus, the ICIA's goal is to lay the foundations to achieve a stable production and good quality throughout the year in profitable farms, reported the Council in a statement.

The work of the ICIA is aimed at obtaining, evaluating, characterising and selecting the plant material that best suits the agro-environmental conditions of the archipelago, as well as the requirements of the local export market. The goal is to obtain varieties with specific characteristics suited to the market and the use for which they are intended.

Another objective is to improve the cultivation and post-harvest techniques, adapting them to the selected plant material to ensure that the fruit reaches the final consumer in perfect condition and with a long shelf life.

It also seeks to address the strategies for cultivation and pest and disease control in a sustainable way, betting on environmentally-friendly solutions, with a preference for organic and ecological methods.

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