The mountain olive oil value chain in MOVING, sustaining people, nature, economy and heritage in the Andalusian Betic System, but in need of being sustained

Topic

Author:

Raquel Moreno, Tristan Roullier, Antonio Zafra (ADEGUA)

Olive growing has a long history in Andalusia and especially in Sierras Subbéticas, Córdoba, Spain. The mountain olive oil production in this mountain area is a strong economic, social, cultural and environmental asset. Producing, processing and marketing this olive oil involves farmers, cooperatives, private mills, distributors and the population at large. All these interactions included in a high-quality mountain olive oil value chain. Thus, this culture is working as a strong social bond as it preserves identity and traditional knowledge and ensures social cohesion and collective decision making. At the same time, it needs innovation coming from scientific knowledge and support from policies taking into account its differentiated reality, such as the MOVING project proposes.

The Subbéticas mountain olive oil value chain provides unique ecosystem services as well as community value, all the while producing an exceptional olive oil, essential for its economy, but the very region is facing challenges that need to be addressed to keep it sustainable and resilient. A differentiated treatment from policies addressing mountains and their value, adaptation measures to face climate change, a fair price on the market to cover for the high production costs of a high-quality mountain food or the social recognition for the environmental services provided are among the proposed solutions. Action to tackle depopulation and support the aging population is also essential, because only resilient communities make sustainable territories.

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