



A manual of good farming practices for olive production

Currently being edited by FAO, the Good Agricultural Practices Manual is a guide for olive growers with recommendations on health and environmental practices

OBJECTIVE

Once published, the **Olive GAP Guidelines Manual for the WANA Region** will provide practical and exhaustive information on each phase in olive production.

It has taken four years to produce this essential guide for olive growers. It is expected to help them with their farming activities in the best possible conditions: in terms of their own health and that of their family, while protecting their orchards, ecosystems and the environment in general. Economic issues are also taken into consideration: as a complete reference manual, it will contribute to the long-term future of farm holdings and help farmers face fluctuations in the market.

Preserving today in order to protect the future

In arid regions which suffer from water scarcity, soil degradation and climate change, it is essential that natural resources are preserved in order to maintain farming activities.

The manual takes a step-by-step approach and provides information on procedures for each phase of olive

production: controlled use of chemical products, prevention of biological contamination, adaptation to food markets, etc. The recommendations also cover improvements in production methods, from the quantitative and qualitative perspectives, that should have a positive impact on the value of olive orchards. Over the medium term, this approach should lead to demanding consumers, at the international level, having more confidence in these products and will have a positive impact on the revenues of oil producers.

Traditional communities are ready to change

Well established in the Mediterranean Basin, olives are a traditional crop that has not seen much technological evolution over the years. Promotion and application of the recommendations contained in the manual imply that olive producers will be ready to make use of innovative approaches and strategies. Since its launch in 2005, this project has confirmed the commitment of olive producers to this concept: they have in fact been involved in every step of the produc-

tion of this manual by sharing their knowledge and skills, strengthening their networks and participating in training programmes. Among the manual's authors is an olive producer, who contributed four chapters on alternative practices introduced by the farmers themselves for soil preservation and irrigation management.



GAP guidelines recommend rational irrigation to prevent fruit split while ripening.

THE PARTNERS IN THE PROJECT Olive GAP Guidelines Manual for the WANA region - 2005/2009, manual now being prepared for publication: AARENINA ; ARI (Cyprus) ; INRA (Morocco) ; Olive Farmer (Egypt) ; NCARE (Jordan) ; Olive Tree Institute (Tunisia) ; FAO/RNE