

Forest Bioenergy in the Protected Mediterranean Areas

Report on the external events – **Cultivation of non-forest products in the
Valencian Community forests (Spain)**



Workpackage 2 - Communication

Activity 2.6 – Participating to external events

Deliverable 2.6.1 - Report on the external events

June 2018

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<i>Activity A.2.6</i>	Participating to external events
<i>Deliverable 2.6.1</i>	Cultivation of non-forest products in the Valencian Community forests
<i>Summary:</i>	Non-wood products and benefits of the Valencian Community forests: possibilities of the Medicinal & Aromatic plants (MAPs) cultivation within the province of Alicante
<i>Involved partner</i>	PP5 AMUFOR – Association of Forest Municipalities of the Comunitat Valenciana
<i>Responsible partner</i>	PP7 Zadar County
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BRIEF EVENT DESCRIPTION

On Friday 20th April was held the “Non-wood products and benefits of the Valencian Community forests: possibilities of the Medicinal & Aromatic plants (MAPs) cultivation in the province of Alicante” event in the municipality of Beneixama (Alicante), in which experts on the agroforestry sector provided the keys to implement new initiatives.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Beneixama economy and its region have been based on agriculture (olive, almonds and vine cultivation). The municipality has adequate geomorphological characteristics in order to reconcile these uses of the territory with other agro-tourism practices, which are particularly indicated around the cultivation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs).

The harmonization between conservation and sustainable use of its natural resources requires a strategic planning, which opts for a green economic model in a climate change context. For these reasons, it is essential to explain the structuring of the sector from the local entities and perspectives of MAPs, the agroforestry-based bioeconomy as a driving force of rural development in a climate change context, as well as the possibilities of growing MAPs within the Mediterranean.

The ForBioEnergy project is a model project within the initiatives of the Interreg MED program, in addition to be the reference to explain the situation of the sector and the steps to follow for the activation of new initiatives within the forestry sector.

1.1 Location

The event was held in Beneixama (Alicante, Spain) in the Municipal Auditorium.

1.2 Who attended

The meeting was attended by enterprises, local authorities, universities and general public.

BRIEF OUTLINE OF KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES ADDRESSED IN THE EVENT

- Situation of the forestry sector from local entities in a bioeconomy context.
- Products and services provided by the forests with focus on the non-timber products.
- Possibilities of the cultivation of Aromatic and Medicinal Plants.
- Activation of new initiatives within the forestry sector.

1.3 Purpose and scope

To explain the situation of the agroforestry sector, as well as the next steps to activate new initiatives in a context of a circular bioeconomy.

1.4 Key messages, outcomes, recommendations and synergies with thematic community project

- The landscape "in mosaic" ensures a better defence against bushfires. It can be only achieved through an active and living rural environment, where the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) must play a fundamental role.
- The conditions to recover traditional and innovative agroforestry activities must be created through a new "friendly" normative framework in order to avoid the biggest environmental catastrophe suffered by the Valencian Community year after year, which are the large forest fires and the loss of rural society, its history and heritage. The potential of the bioeconomy has to be used as a form of green development in the 21st century.

CONCLUSIONS

- Through a Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) the ecosystem is conserved.
- Circular bioeconomy is the opportunity for low-carbon sectors and for rural development.
- Forest-based bioenergy at local scale is considered as a great development opportunity.
- There is a high potential of the territory for the production of Aromatic and Medicinal Plants, which represents an opportunity to avoid rural depopulation and to diversify the incomes from forests.
- There are high opportunities to tackle climate change from local entities.

AGENDA



PRODUCTOS FORESTALES NO MADEREROS Y BENEFICIOS DE LOS MONTES EN LA COMUNITAT VALENCIANA: POSIBILIDADES DEL CULTIVO DE PLANTAS AROMÁTICAS Y MEDICINALES EN EL INTERIOR DE LA PROVINCIA DE ALICANTE.



- **Lugar:** BENETXAMA, Auditorio Municipal. Calle Vicente Conca Blasco nº 11.
- **Fecha:** Viernes 20 de abril de 2018 a las 17 horas.
- **Objetivo:** La economía de Benetxama y su comarca se ha basado en la agricultura, con el cultivo del olivo, el almendro y la vid. Sin embargo, tanto este término municipal como toda la zona, presenta unas características geomorfológicas muy adecuadas para compatibilizar estos usos del territorio con otras prácticas de agroturismo y donde están especialmente indicadas las prácticas agroforestales en torno al cultivo de plantas aromáticas y medicinales. La armonización entre la conservación y el aprovechamiento sostenible de sus recursos naturales, en una comarca que supera los 50.000 habitantes y muy cercana a destinos turísticos muy importantes, precisa de una planificación estratégica pausada, que apueste por un modelo económico verde, en un contexto acuciante por la sequía y el cambio climático.

Estructura de la jornada:

Día 20, viernes

- ✓ 17:00 h. Presentación de la jornada
 - D. Vicente Ibáñez Cruz, alcalde de Benetxama
 - D^a María José Payá Valdés, regidora de medio ambiente y representante en AMUFOR.
 - D. Óscar Martínez Poquet, presidente de AMUFOR.
 - D. Francisco Javier Sendra Mengual, diputado de gestión del territorio de la Diputación provincial de Alicante y miembro de la Junta directiva de AMUFOR.
- ✓ 17:20 h. Vertebración del sector forestal desde las entidades locales y perspectivas de los productos no maderables.
 - D. Fernando Pradells Monzó, gerente de AMUFOR.
- ✓ 18:00 h. La Bioeconomía de base agroforestal como motor del desarrollo rural y amortiguador del cambio climático en zonas mediterráneas.
 - D. José Vicente Oliver Villanueva, Profesor de la Universidad Politécnica de Valencia.
- ✓ 18:45 h. Posibilidades del cultivo de plantas aromáticas y medicinales en el interior de la provincia de Alicante.
 - D. Fidel Pascual, Director de Calidad de la cooperativa Herbes del Moli Coop. V.
- ✓ 19:30 h. Debate y propuestas de actuación en la zona.
- ✓ 20:30 h. Fin de la jornada.

Día 21, sábado, a las 9 horas

- ✓ Ruta a pie por la sierra de la Solana, en Benetxama, partiendo del paraje de La Talota. Duración aproximada 4 horas.

Inscripciones:

La jornada es gratuita, pero es necesario inscribirse enviando un correo a adj@benetxama.es o a amuforcv@gmail.com

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