

# COFARM



CASE STUDY: API Alto Guadalquivir

# Introduction

An integrated production group (API) refers to a consortium of farmers who hire a technician to provide advice with respect to controlling crop pests and diseases. This is a requirement since 2014, with the introduction of the “Sustainable use of phytosanitary products” regulation.

## Basic information



98% of the activity is in Jaén, but there are also farms in Granada and Córdoba.

Name API Alto Guadalquivir

Year of establishment 1/12/2010

Kind of cooperation Association, Producers group

Number of farmers/ landowners/ entrepreneurs/ enterprises involved

190 Farmers

### Internet links

RAIF is available an advisory alert and phytosanitary information network of the Junta de Andalucía, which provides information on the status of pests and diseases. It also includes an app for the mobile-phone.

The website:

<https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/agriculturaypesca/raif/>



# Farm Data

Area 3.700 ha

## Description

All members of the API have to comply with regulations. The compliance with the regulation is undertaken collectively rather than individually in order to reduce costs. One farmer outlined the cost benefits of participating in the API: "If it were done individually, I would have to hire a technician to manage the field notebook, which is ultimately the practical part of that regulation, and it would be much more expensive. Thanks to the RAIF you know the status of pests and diseases in an updated way." At certain locations on the farm (equidistant apart) there is a sampling station for pests and diseases which could affect the olive grove. These stations are sampled weekly and the data is passed onto the RAIF. Samples are taken from Monday to Wednesday and on Friday they are published on the website, thereby enabling all farmers to access this information.



# Cooperation Process Data

On January 1, 2014, the "sustainable use of phytosanitary products" regulation came into effect. This regulation indicates that all farmers who engage in the cultivation of tillage crops, in this case olive groves, must have a technical advisor to manage their cultivation with respect to pest control and use of phytosanitary products. With this API, these regulations are complied with. This technical advisor has to have adequate qualifications and competencies in the subject area (Agricultural Engineer, Agricultural Engineer, Bachelor of Environmental Sciences) and also specific training provided by the Junta de Andalucía related to integrated production. Specifically, two courses, a generic one-week integrated production course and a specific 40-hour course. Any university degree is capable of doing these tasks, following a protocol of quality certification. Belonging to the API means that the quality of olive production is certified. The problem is that what is certified is the production of olives and what is sold in the marketplace is oil. The production of oil does not have the quality certification, since not all farmers who carry their

olives comply with the integrated production regulations. Oil of different qualities is mixed and that is why the oil cannot have the seal of certified quality, because the integrated production regulations are not fulfilled within all stages of the production process. Each farmer takes the oil to his own cooperative or to a private oil mill or a buying station, and some comply with the regulations whilst others do not.

In order to carry out the complete process in Jaén, it would be necessary for the oil mills to get involved more in the certification process and to improve the overall quality. In Jaén there is little certified oil being certified through an integrated production process and, on the other hand, in other nearby provinces, such as Córdoba and Seville, it is more commonplace.

This form of cooperation has advantages such as the economic benefit and the technical advice of the API, which translates into a reduction of costs. On the contrary, negative aspects also appear, such as bureaucracy.



## Advice/Recommendation

“Agriculture is a living science, every day you learn something new about it. Both technicians and farmers have to keep training. API technicians offer farmers at least one training day and it is advisable to do a practice as well.

Regarding the level of involvement of farmers, those who are more professional do care more about the subject, but those who have the olive grove as a source of secondary income or it is not their main activity, it is more complicated. You have to be on top of them to get the documentation and do things right.”

## Queries/Questions

- Do you think a mobile app would be useful in order to carry out better monitoring and control (by technicians) of phytosanitary treatments?
- Do you consider that farmers belonging to an API should receive specific training in this regard?
- Do you think that it should be a requirement that both olives and olive oils should be certified by an API?



## Key Words

### Cooperation Key Words

Association  
Counseling/advising  
Producers group

### Farm Key Words

Olives/olive oil  
Organic/integrated/certified farming  
Permanent crops

## Partners



Limerick Institute of Technology:  
(Ireland)  
[www.lit.ie/rdi](http://www.lit.ie/rdi)



Hof und Leben GmbH  
(Germany)  
[www.hofundleben.de](http://www.hofundleben.de)



Asociace  
soukromého  
zemědělství ČR

Asociace Soukromeho Zemedelstvi  
Ceske Republiky (Czech Republic)  
[www.asz.cz](http://www.asz.cz)



On Projects Advising SL  
(Spain)  
[www.onprojects.es](http://www.onprojects.es)



Union de Agricultores y Ganaderos-  
Jovenes Agricultores de Jaén (Spain)  
[www.coagjaen.es](http://www.coagjaen.es)



Biotehniški Center Naklo  
(Slovenia)  
[www.bc-naklo.si](http://www.bc-naklo.si)



Confederazione Italiana Agricoltori Toscana  
(Italy)  
[www.ciatoscana.eu](http://www.ciatoscana.eu)



European Landowners' Organisation  
(Belgium)  
[www.europeanlandowners.org](http://www.europeanlandowners.org)

## Social Media



/CoFarm  
[www.facebook.com/CoFarm-1793897127551330](http://www.facebook.com/CoFarm-1793897127551330)



/COFARM\_ERASMUS  
[www.twitter.com/COFARM\\_ERASMUS](http://www.twitter.com/COFARM_ERASMUS)

## Project Website

[www.cofarm-erasmus.eu](http://www.cofarm-erasmus.eu)



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein. CO-FARM: Enhancing COoperation amongst FARMing entrepreneurs Project Number: 2016-1-IE01-KA202-016870