



AGRIDEMO



FARMDEMO



PLAID

Country Report for Portugal

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Topics of demonstration

- Arable crops - Root crops (potato, others)
- Fodder crops (maize, grass, clover, others)
- Bee keeping
- Fruit, vegetables - open field and greenhouse
- Ornamentals - open field and greenhouse
- Fruit trees, olives, vineyards, cereals, oilseeds
- Dairy cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry
- Climate change
- Machinery
- Conservation agriculture
- Biodiversity and nature management
- Crop protection integrated pest management
- New varieties/planting material
- Cork and cork oak
- Animal health management and welfare

Providers and purpose of demonstration

In Portugal, most of the demonstration actions are held by organizations, namely, professional schools, universities and farmer associations. Demonstrative activities held by regional entities of agricultural development have been decreasing in the last years due to financial and human resources limitations. Although, some years ago these entities were the main demonstrators amongst new farmers and expert farmers.

It is visible a big variation of the purpose of the demonstrations, although, and given the nature of the main demonstrators, the most visible activities are:

- Educational and training opportunities
- Improved environmental conditions
- Local economic development
- Information gathering/sharing
- Knowledge creation
- Strengthen the farming community
- Nature conservation
- Research implementation
- Networking



Management of demonstration farms

- Research
- Workshops
- Agriculture Tech
- Field trip
- Discussion groups
- Conferences, technical seminars
- Training
- Open farm event
- Visits to experimental farms
- Demonstrative trials
- Consulting
- Technical meetings

Access Issues

Gender: Given the nature of the main demonstrators in Portugal, in most of the demonstrations there is a balance when it comes to gender, 50% of the participants are female and 50% are male.

Age: In professional schools and universities most of the participants are new farmers. In farmer associations we found more expert farmers. However, no dominant age group was observed.

Geography: based on the answers obtained in Portugal, the demonstration activities centered around Trás-os-Montes, namely, Vila Real, Mirandela and Bragança; Douro Litoral (Marco de Canaveses); Beira Litoral (Leiria); Ribatejo and Estremadura (Lisbon, Coruche) and Alentejo (Elvas, Beja, Alter do Chão).

Other Issues

There was reluctance shown by the organizations/farmers that were contacted to answer the questions and to know their activities. The massive data diffusion connected to the identity theft issue was one of the greatest problems found in Portugal and in data delivery.

Decrease of demonstration activities held by the regional entities of agricultural development due to the lack of human and financial resources.

Distinguishing Characteristics

- Only one of the respondents is part of a network or programme
- The main instructors of the demonstration activities are normally researchers
- In many cases the demonstration activities are connected to research projects financed by the EU, although other activities are self-financed, not affecting the non payment of the demonstration activities by the participants
- Most of the demonstrators in Portugal are from research institutions



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