



BEGINNING FARMER EXTENSION

04 – 07 March 2012

Castellón de la Plana – SPAIN

5th WORKSHOP REPORT

The fifth meeting of “BEFARMEX Project” was held in Castellón de la Plana, Spain in the period from 04th to 07th March 2012. This was the fifth mobility activity of the project. The participants were twenty-two: two from Turkey, six from Romania, eight from Italy, three from Spain and three from Hungary. The Greek partner don't attend the meeting in Spain.

After the arrival of all participants, the meeting started in the morning on the 05th March in Intercoop Group headquarter. After a short presentation of participants of each country, the Turkish coordinator described the activities already completed by each partner and the activities to be done during next months. In particular, during the meeting, the participants discussed about booklet, final brochure, meeting evaluation reports and the next and final meeting in Craiova organized by Romanian partner. During the meeting the Director of Intercoop Foundation, Mr José Damiá, welcomed the Befarmex group and presented detailed information about Intercoop and farmer extension programs in Spain.

After lunch in Intercoop the group visited Artusa almond nougat plant in Cabanes where the San Luis Turrón is produced since 1978. Turrón is part of the Mediterranean diet and it is made with almond, honey and sugar. Turrón San Luis is made with the best ingredients such as the “marcona almond” from the area of Cabanes (Castellón) which are produced by farms belonging to Intercoop. The quality of Turrón San Luis is recognised by the Certificate of Artisan Product of the Valencian Community among other awards obtained since its foundation. The Befarmex group could taste different kinds of turrón, see the old machinery and the factory where the traditional turrón is produced and watch a video explaining the culture that surrounds turrón and its production process passed from old to new generations.



The following day on 06th March the Befarmex group went to Benicarló to visit Benihort cooperative founded in 1946 and specialized in fruits, vegetables and citrus production and supply. Today Benihort has 2000 members and covers about 10.000 ha. Quality and prevention department of Intercoop helps Benihort to plan training courses and conferences concerning trading techniques, use of machinery, use of phytosanitary products, pesticides and ecologic tools,

quality control rules, work risk prevention, basic computing and so on. Intercoop and Benihort work together to plan the yearly training programme and to put together different training activities in order to receive money from the government. Benihort obtained the denomination of origin for the artichoke, they produce sun energy and use modern equipment to reach quality and efficiency standards requested by the market. They are now starting a fuel project to sell fuel to the farms belonging to the cooperative at a lower price. Organic production is not developed because it is not requested by the market.



Near Benicarló there is a small town called Chert where the Befarmex group could see the area of Millenarian Olive Trees. They are very impressive trees which receive a very special well-cared according to special quality rules.



Before lunch in Clot d'en Simó cooperative, the Befarmex group could experience a local oil tasting with Fina Gonell, an Intercoop oil technician.

In the afternoon the participants visited Peñíscola, an impressive medieval coastal town, and its castle erected by the knights Templar.

The day after, on 07th March, the participants left from Castellón de la Plana.