



GEOGRAPHICAL REGION:

Sigri area in Lesbos island, Greece

A scenic rural Mediterranean landscape in the middle of the Aegean Sea.

INVOLVED ACTORS IN THE DESCRIBED NBS:

Farm owner and family;
Farm agronomist and technical personnel;
Cultural Association “Lesvos island of the olive”;
Neighboring farmers and local society.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION, REFERENCES, WEBSITES

Farm advisors, invited experts from scientific community, on-line research, local knowledge and family tradition.

FUTURE PLANS:

The estate will host a **Living-lab** for the co-development, evaluation and demonstration of NbSs in agriculture. The Living-lab will be established in the framework of MARA-MEDITERRA, an EU project funded by PRIMA, which aims to promote NbSs and share relevant experience and knowledge across Mediterranean. Furthermore, the estate invests in an innovation and conference center as well as gastronomic and educational activities that enhance the visitors' experience.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NBS:

Where there once was a deserted area, there is now an oasis of biodiversity.

In a 200-hectare sea-front peninsula, 40.000 olive trees are cultivated in a certified organic plantation using environmentally friendly practices that transformed an area suffering from desertification to a healthy and productive ecosystem. The application of environmentally friendly agriculture in terraces and the rehabilitation of biodiversity contribute to the regeneration of the local society and economy with multiple environmental benefits for natural resources, native flora-fauna as well as climate since the plantation counterbalance the Carbon footprint created by 2.000 people.

HOW THE SOLUTION IS CURRENTLY APPLIED IN THE FIELD?

Older olive trees along with baby-olive trees, were established in newly as well as restored terraces around the hills of the estate. Natural herbs and a vast variety of tree species (e.g., figs, pomegranates, pines, palm trees) are hosted to promote biodiversity. Nature friendly cultivation practices are applied throughout the plantation to ensure environmental sustainability and the quality of products. These include minimum tillage, N-fixing legumes and green mulching, use of compost that is made of seaweeds, manure and olive cultivation remainings.

SUCCESS ELEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The application of an integrated cultivation approach that combines multiple based on nature solutions, traditional practices and modern knowledge in order to achieve a synergistic effect and create a multifunctional landscape.

The vertical production that starts from the olive trees in the estate and continues to a state-of-the-art olive mill and bottling facilities established in a stone-building of local architecture. This resulted in the production of premium quality and award-winning products.

LIMITATIONS AND DRAWBACKS:

Bureaucratic procedures of the National Rural Development Programme and insufficient support to organic and diversified farm holdings.

Work demanding cultivation practices but limited personnel availability in the area.

Limited land availability to expand the farm operations.

BENEFITS (ECONOMICALLY TO THE FARM, ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY):

Economic benefits from olives/olive oil and other farm products (e.g., herbs, honey), along with gastronomic and educational activities that attract visitors. Reduced cultivation cost due to the applied practices.

The environmental benefits include reverse of desertification, soil erosion control, flood control, increased soil water storage and aquifer recharge, biodiversity enhancement.

Regeneration of local society with green job opportunities in the estate, development of cooperation and synergies with other local farmers and suppliers (e.g., use of the olive mile, nurseries, supplies), landscape improvement and increased number of visitors.

