

## NAME OF THE PROJECT

*+BDMIRA - Sustainable and competitive sweet-potato at Mira irrigation zone: innovative practices and organizational dynamic.*

## PROJECT PARTNERS

- INIAV, National Agrarian and Veterinary Research Institute;
- ESA/IPS, School of Agriculture from the Polytechnic Institute of Santarém;
- The growers association AHSA – Horticultures, Fruicultures and Floricultures Association;
- The enterprise Gemusering Portugal Produção Hortícola, Lda.;
- The enterprise ASF Portugal.

## DURATION OF THE PROJECT

October 2017 to September 2020.

*This project was built with the stakeholders since the idea arose.*

## INTRODUCTION

- In Portugal, the production area of sweet potato is around 1000 ha, distributed mainly in the Southwest and South of the country. Around 80% of the area is situated in the Mira Irrigation Perimeter (MIP).
- Almost at the same area of the Mira Irrigation Perimeter there is a Protected Geographical Indication (PGI), for the sweet potato variety Lira, designated as 'Aljezur sweet potato', since 2009.
- The consumption of sweet potato is increasing in Portugal, as well as the exportations, while importations are decreasing.

## PRACTICAL PROBLEM

- In the MIP the crop is declining with low yields, due to emerging phytosanitary problems (viruses, fungi, insects ...), as well as fertilization and irrigation schemes inadequate to the edaphoclimatic conditions.
- Using cuttings from the previous year's crop as plant material and lacking effective control of major virus vectors (aphids and whiteflies) can perpetuate the incidence of viruses and other diseases, affecting the production and the quality of the roots.
- Alternatively, growers import planting material from competing varieties of Lira, with royalty fees and without the guarantee of a plant passport, with the risk of introducing harmful organisms in the country.

## OBJECTIVES

- To develop and to transfer innovative methods of propagation (in vitro and in greenhouse) for high quality propagation material (virus-free and other diseases). This procedure may stimulate Portuguese nurseries to produce sweet potato material.
- To develop standardized technologies for sustainable production of sweet potato in Integrated Production and Organic Production.
- To develop and to transfer sustainable post-harvest and conservation root technologies.
- Increase, at national and international level, the competitiveness of Portuguese nurseries and growers through the adoption of a new organizational dynamic.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

- To present a final product (root) of the Portuguese sweet potato Lira variety to the market of higher quality.
- To develop and transfer methodologies able to increase the productivity of quality sweet potato in the IMP between 30 and 50%.
- To identify the most appropriate post-harvest conservation methodologies to increase the period of conservation of quality sweet potato roots.

## RESULTS DISSEMINATION

- To publish a Handbook, with an electronic version, with the Good Agronomic Practices for sweet potato in Integrated Production and Organic Production.
- To develop a micro-site (<http://projects.iniav.pt/BDMIRA>) and a Newsletter.
- To develop Podcasts.
- To produce a video.
- To organize a congress.
- To organize open days and field trips.

## BENEFICIARIES

Key partners, growers and their associations, nurseries, food industry, enterprises, consumers, educational and research institutions.



<http://projects.iniav.pt/BDMIRA>

Projeto cofinanciado por:



PROGRAMA DE  
DESENVOLVIMENTO  
RURAL 2014-2020



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