The implementation of an international project: advances of REALMed in Portugal through sample collection, acorn analyses, multiple actors networking, outreach material design.

REALMed is an international scientific project, where North- and South Mediterranean countries will collaborate over a 3-years period to add value to Mediterranean traditional products, namely Iberian Pig, Truffles, Argan Oil, Mountain Lamb and Kid Meat.

AUTHENTICITY AND VALORIZATION will be addressed by applying the most recent technologies (i.e. stable isotope analyses) while merging not only PRODUCT QUALITY, but also the PRACTICES put in place to achieve them (traditional perspective) and the importance they play in local economy’s potential (social perspective and innovation).

EcoLogy

AIMS

The ecological perspective in which the Portuguese team is involved is related to the origin of the acorns on which the Iberian Pig fed. A stable isotope signature of acorns from different locations will be obtained and ground further for authenticity purposes, to be coupled with results in pig’s fat.

1-YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS

ACORN SAMPLING
Massive acorn sample collection: 82 sites, 110 and 46 acorn samples of Quercus rotundifolia and Q. suber, respectively (each sample represents an individual tree)

IBERIAN PIG SAMPLING
Pig fat sample collection: 3 samples from independent pig herds from different black “Alentejano” pig producers (each sample represents 30% of a pig herd)

StABLE ISOTOPE ANALYSES: planned Autumn 2018

FOOD SCIENCE

1-YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS

POSTHARVEST HANDLING
- Exploring optimal postharvest storage conditions
- Estimating whole acorns shelf-life

TECHNOLOGICAL PROCESSING
- Modelling and optimization of drying variables of acorns
- Improving peeling operation by drying methods – Texture profiles
- Processing impacts on nutritional and bioactive composition
- Exploring the technological suitability for different food applications

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

AIMS

Besides science, the management of an international project requires time allocated to diverse activities as:

- Organisation of meetings among partners
- Reporting to national and international funding bodies
- Preparation of outreach material
- Organisation of tailored events for stakeholders
- Participation in national and international stakeholder’s event to promote the project approach and achievements

1-YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS

INTRODUCTORY PAPER
- The project presented to a scientific audience

STAKEHOLDER’S EVENT
- National: Feira do enchido e do presunto; I Conferência Ibérica sobre a bolota
- International: Agriresearch Conference

WHITE PAPER
- A publication in a pure commercial style to reach companies, traders and consumers

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