

European Chestnut Days 2025

"The challenges of the chestnut sector in an environment of extreme climate change"

Sierra de Aracena and Picos de Aroche Natural Park

September 10/14, 2025

Preliminary Program

Wednesday 10 - 2025

Transfers from Seville to Barceló Hotel Aracena

Reception of European Chestnut Days participants

Barceló Aracena Hotel

5:00 PM - 8:00 pm Plenary Meeting of the Eurocastanea Assembly/Steering Committee

Local visits and dinner on your own

Thursday, September 11

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8:30 - 9:30 am Accreditation.

9:30 – 10:00 am Opening of the Congress.

- *President of the Andalusian Regional Government, His Excellency Mr. Juan Manuel Moreno Bonilla (Attendance pending confirmation)*
- *Representatives of the General State Administration*
- *Representatives of the Departments of Agriculture and Sustainability of the Andalusian Regional Government.*
- *Representative of the Caja Rural del Sur Foundation*
- *President of Eurocastanea*

10:00 - 10:30 am Opening Conference

- ***“The value of environmental services derived from the chestnut ecosystem framework on CO2 markets”***
Fernando Rodriguez Lopez. University of Salamanca.

Topic A. Andalusia, the chestnut tree in Southern Europe

10:30 - 11:00 am The Andalusian chestnut grove

- *The Malaga chestnut grove: future prospects. Francisco Boza, Head of the Chestnut Sector, COAG Málaga (Spain)*
- *The Huelva chestnut grove's future prospects, Arturo Martínez Ronda, President of Castañera Serrana, Andalusian Cooperative Society, Huelva (Spain)*

11:00- 11:30 am Coffee break.

Topic B. Current situation and prospects for the 2025 campaign in Europe.

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11:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m. The European chestnut grove

Roundtable: The upcoming European chestnut campaign: the situation of the crop in an environment of climate change.

- *Situation in Italy: Giovanni Gamba, Unito.*
- *Situation in France speaker to be determined*
- *Situation in Portugal: speaker to be determined*
- *Situation in Greece: speaker to be determined*
- *Situación in Austria: Hannes Meißel Msc*
- *Situation in Spain: speaker to be determined*

12:30-12:45 pm Debate

Topic C: Processing and marketing of chestnuts

12:45 - 1:30 pm Relevant experiences in processing and marketing chestnuts.

How to add value to territories through chestnut management and processing. National and international experiences

- *Ensuring the Quality and Health of Chestnuts at Retail and Consumption. Giacomo Gatti, Laimburg Research Centre (Bolzano, Italy).*
- *Chestnut Organic market trends: the importance of sustainability for consumers. Alvaro Barrera Fernández, President of Ecovalia (Spain)*
- *Processing of local chestnuts: what tools to meet the needs of producers and the market? The example of the Ardèche department (France) Michel Grange – SNPC – SDCA (Syndicat de défense de la châtaigne d'Ardèche)*

1:30-2:00 pm Debate

2:00 - 3:30 pm Lunch (sponsored).

3:30 – 4:30 pm Future prospects for chestnut production and marketing in Europe.

- *Introductory presentation. Marketing and export flow of chestnuts in Europe. Eurocastanea.*
- *Debate – dialogue/Round table:
National and international marketing company
International transformation company
National - international producer*

4:30-5:00 pm Debate

5:00 – 7:30 pm Field visit.

- *Facilities of the Castañera Serrana SCA and the La Esperanza de Los Marines Cooperative.*
- *Pilot farms of projects deployed in PNSAPA.*
- *Farms with different local varieties (Plantalajar , Helechal, Comisaria, Vazquez) to appreciate and distinguish the tree and fruit diversity.*
- *During the visits, live demonstrations: Machinery, craftsmanship.*

8:30 pm Dinner (sponsored).

Friday, September 12

8:30 - 9:00 am Accreditation.

Topic D. Ecology of the chestnut grove in Europe.

9:00-10:00 am The ecology of the chestnut grove. The chestnut grove and its relationship with habitats of community interest and the Natura 2000 Network

- *Chestnut cultivars and climate change: new approaches in phenoclimatic and topoclimatic modelling built with chestnut producers in South East and South west territories in France, Yildiz Thomas, CNRS (France)*
- *Chestnut forests in Andalusia: characterization based on the synthesis and integration of geographic information systems. José Ramón Guzmán Álvarez, Department of Ecosystem Restoration, Forestry Action Service, General Directorate of Forest Policy and Biodiversity (Spain)*
- *Biodiversity associated with the fruit-producing chestnut tree. Darío Arias, David Lastra. Cesefor (Spain)*

Topic E. Pests and diseases that affect fruit quality.

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10:00 – 11:00 am Disease and pest control in chestnut cultivation. Fruit quality.

- *Development of a biological control against Cydia with Trichogramma: Karolina Pecharova, INRAE, France*
- *Monitoring the presence of Cydia splendana in the Sierra de Aracena and Picos de Aroche Natural Park, Pablo Alvarado. AGAPA, Regional Government of Andalusia*
- *Use of mating confusion perhomones agaist Cydia fagigllandana and Cydia splendana ecc. Massimo Dal Pane and Pierangelo Mereghetti - In Farm - GEA (Milano - Italy).*
- *The Eurocastanea protocol for the management of chestnut rot caused by Gnomoniopsis castaneae, Andrea Vannini, University of Tuscia (Italy), José Gomes-Laranjo – University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro (Portugal)*

11:00 - 11:30 am Debate.

11:30 - 12:00 am Coffee break

Topic F: Diseases that affect trees

12:00 – 1:00 pm Disease and pest control in chestnut cultivation, the grove.

- *Biological control of the chestnut wasp in Malaga. Eva Wong, IFAPA, Andalusian Regional Government (Spain)*
- *Ink disease control: effectiveness of limestone amendments in Andalusia. María Dolores Carbonero, IFAPA, Andalusian Regional Government (Spain).*
- *LIFE Fagesos - Development of a protocol for integrated management of ink disease. Carmen Morales (University of Tuscia) and Francisco Ruiz (University of Cordoba)*
- *Chestnut blight control. Andreu Mejer – Carlos Colinas – University of Lleida (Spain)*

1:00 - 1:30 pm Debate

1:30 - 3:00 pm Lunch (sponsored).

3:00-3:45 pm New chestnut reproductive materials. Experiences and measures to mitigate climate change:

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- *Conservation and recovery of the ancestral chestnut genome for fruit production, improving its resilience to climate change. Ancestral genetic resources of the chestnut tree and its adaptation to climate change and diseases. GO YesWeCast*
- *Use of rootstocks tolerant to ink disease, adaptation to the territory, Beatriz Cuenca, Vivero de Maceda, Grupo Tragsa, Spain.*
- *Potential distribution of chestnut trees in Spain. IMFOREST*

3:45-4:15 pm Debate

5:00 PM - 7:30 PM Field visits.

- *Facilities of the Castañera Serrana SCA and the La Esperanza de Los Marines Cooperative.*
- *La Barbera Farm, mixed farm, chestnut, walnut, and apple trees.*
- *Pilot farms of projects deployed in PNSAPA.*
- *Farms with different local varieties (Plantalajar, Helechal, Comisaria, Vázquez) to appreciate and distinguish the tree and fruit diversity.*
- *During the visits, live demonstrations: Machinery, craftsmanship.*

9:00 pm Closing dinner of the Congress (sponsored).

Saturday, September 13

9:30 - 12:00 am B2B Meeting

- Bilateral meetings between congress participants, at the request of one party.

9:30 - 10:00 am New opportunities for cooperation in the framework of EU2030

Gertruud van Leijen (Van Leijen - European Cooperation & Grants)

10:00 - 10:15 am Debate

10:15 - 12:00 am Creation of cooperation and innovation networks.

Identification of opportunities for cooperation and innovation among participants. Four thematic sessions will be held in parallel on the following topics:

- *Diseases of the grove*
- *Gnomonopsis*
- *Chestnut carpophages*
- *Ecology and climate change*

12:00 - 13:00 pm Final meeting of the Eurocastanea steering committee.

13:30 p.m. -16:00 p.m. Transfers to Seville Airport and Santa Justa Station.

Lunch on your own