



incredible

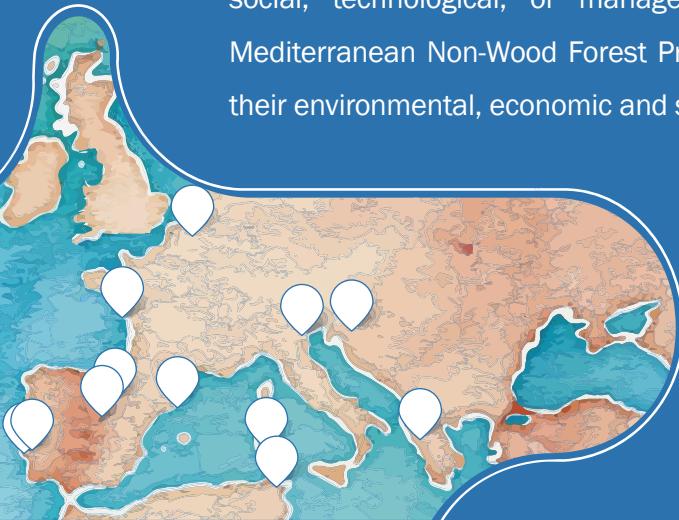
Innovation Networks for Cork, Resins & Edibles

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Innovation Networks of Cork, Resins and Edibles in the Mediterranean basin (INCREDIBLE) is a Thematic Network, funded under the European Commission's H2020, to share knowledge, connect people and foster social, technological, or managerial innovation in Mediterranean Non-Wood Forest Products to increase their environmental, economic and social value.





Healthy lifestyle habits and trends towards natural products mean that today's citizens are increasingly opting for "green" alternatives. Demand for aromatic and medicinal plants (AMP) as natural medicinal remedies and superfoods is growing in global markets. Operationalising knowledge from science and practice is needed to secure resource sustainability, increase collection/production efficiency, product quality and improved access to market.

The Aromatic & Medicinal Plants iNet invites experts to consider issues such as productive processes, traceability, development of niche products, product evolution, internationalisation, substitution of essential oils and the increased power of distributors, among other topics. **Share your knowledge!**





Cork oak forests have been a multi-functional ecosystem for hundreds of years, providing many products and services. Yet these forests are now threatened by environmental and social changes, while the cork market remains heavily focused on the manufacture of bottle stoppers, at almost 70% of the total market value.

The Cork iNet focuses on innovation, shared knowledge and improved profitability to sustain management, as well as championing diversification via new products, market segments and sources of revenue to take greater advantage of this versatile non-wood forest product. **Join the network!**





Gum resin is a natural raw material that has multiple applications and, historically, has been a relevant economic resource in the Mediterranean. In the 1990s, however, European production almost stopped due to lack of competitiveness against foreign resins and substitute oil-based products. A recent change in global markets has led to a revival of resin production in the Iberian Peninsula, but there is still much untapped potential in the Mediterranean.

The Resins iNET explores how Mediterranean forest production could be reactivated to supply part of the demand for resinous products. It focuses on addressing challenges such as efficiency, new tapping methods, compatibility with other forest uses, potential impacts of climate change and lack or loss of traditional know-how. **Share your experience!**



Wild mushroom and truffle picking is a long-held tradition for several Mediterranean countries, involving a variety of actors at recreational, commercial and tertiary (mycotourism, leisure, education) levels. However, it remains an informal activity, subject to grey markets, high variation in production levels and, in some cases, conflicts between recreational and professional pickers. Sustainable collection levels, and innovative business models are needed in order to realise its tremendous potential value. Similarly, truffle value chains can benefit from optimised agronomic practices, traceability and innovative commercialisation approaches to meet an increasing global demand.

The Wild Mushrooms & Truffles iNet focuses on forest management and cultivation techniques for optimum production and diversity of mushrooms and truffles, harvesting regulation and taxation, labelling and certification and innovative value chain integration models, as well as integration with other sectors such as tourism, leisure and education. **Be part of the solution!**





Many species of Mediterranean woodlands offer edible seeds or fruits, some traded since Antiquity while others are used only locally. The most emblematic and valuable gourmet nut is the Mediterranean pine nut, with the sweet chestnut also being highly prized. Blackberries, bilberries and raspberries have potential for development as new crops in southern Europe. Pests and diseases are major threats to yields while informal markets, competition from imported substitutes, lack of consumer awareness are limiting factors.

The Wild Nuts & Berries iNet invites experts to share knowledge and focus new research on a variety of themes, including processing and product quality, traceability, labelling and certification and strategies to tackle pests and diseases and adapt to climate change. **Join the discussion!**



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