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in the Mediterranean basin

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Policy Forum “Untapping the potential of non-wood forest products for Europe's green economy”

16th - 17th March 2021
Online event

Labour and fiscal policies supporting resin holdings in Spain



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Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge of Spain

Modern resin activity in Spain

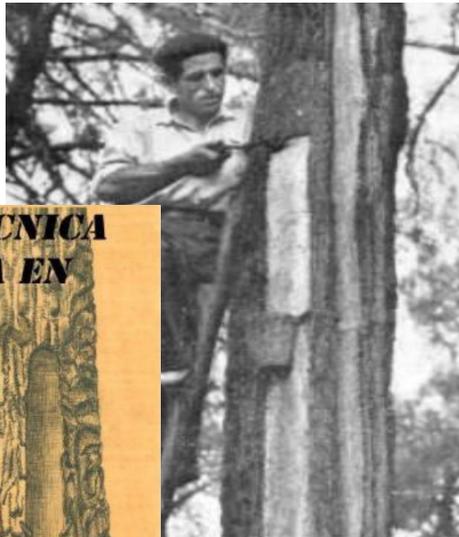
1850

1880

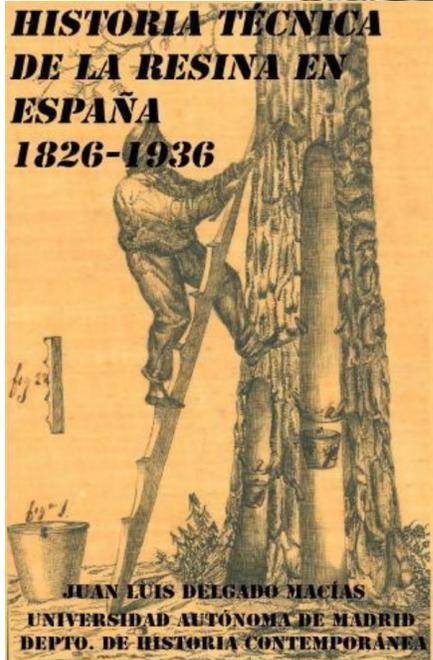
1960

2010

2021



**HISTORIA TÉCNICA
DE LA RESINA EN
ESPAÑA
1826-1936**



**JUAN LUIS DELGADO MACÍAS
UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE MADRID
DEPTO. DE HISTORIA CONTEMPORÁNEA**



1865

1999
Cut down

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Pine resin business models

There are two types of resin holdings in Spain:



1. Forest owners (private or public) who manage pine forests and sell the right to tap their pines:

Pine forests are *managed mainly for wood production* in rotations of between 40 and 100 years
They produce resin for 5 to 25 or 30 years

2. Resin tappers who pay an annual rent for the pines: They work daily in the pine forests *between March and October*, installing their utilities, debarking, tapping and collecting the resin

Pine resin workers conditions

Resin workers sign an annual commercial contract with the resin industry

Some resin workers are integrated in **cooperatives** but *most of them are self-employed.*

Around 1/3 of them combine the resin activity with others but *most of them have resin activity as their only income activity*

Their main problem is **seasonality:**

resin activity only lasts 8 months



The National Association of Resin Workers

was created in 2013

<https://asociacionnacionalresineros.wordpress.com/acerca-de/>

And they joint the existing sectoral organization in
Castilla y León (CyL):

the CyL Regional Resin Roundtable,

created in 2011 (...resin interbranch organization)

<https://www.resinacyl.es/contenido/la-mesa-la-resina-castilla-leon>



They asked for fiscal and labour improvements,
because their labor regime was not clear



PLAN FOR
**SOCIOECONOMIC ACTIVATION
OF THE FOREST SECTOR**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



In 2014, the national government passed the
*“Plan for the Socioeconomic
Activation of the Forest Sector”*

that included

80 measures to develop several **forest value chains**
based on timber and NWFP

9 measures were oriented towards **resin production**

<https://www.miteco.gob.es/gl/biodiversidad/temas/politica-forestal/plan-pasfor/default.aspx>



FEADER



The 9 measures to promote resin activity in Spain (2014):

30. **Encourage associativism and cooperativism** among resin producers.
31. Support the creation of a **resin interbranch organisation (IBO)** to improve the sector structuring.
32. Promote and provide encouragement for the signing of **contracts between producers and industry**
33. Take into consideration the resin sector as an activity that contributes to **Rural Development**.
34. Facilitate the **cooperation** between the different producing regions and all the key players (administration, resin collectors, industry, research centres), through the creation of **information platforms** and **communication channels**, the organisation of conferences, the creation of a specific entity for the sector, etc.
35. Promote the **collaboration with producing Member States (France, Portugal and Greece)**, adopting common stances and consolidating an acting strategy that allows to influence the EU's politics.
36. **Integrate resin activities with other forest management activities** (fire prevention, silvicultural treatments, etc.)
37. Propose the recognition of a **labour and fiscal status for resin workers**, to promote the ordered extraction of resin from the pine woods.
38. Promote the **training and information** of all concerned agents.

There are 4 measures particularly relevant for workers:

32. Standard contracts between producers and industry

36. Integration of activities: resin activities with other forest management activities
to overcome seasonality

37. Improve the labour and fiscal regime
for resin workers.

38. Training

The Ministry, the regional administrations and the resin sector have since then been working on them.



Fiscal and labour regime:

In 2014, the National Government recognized that

resin workers could be considered **managers of agricultural holdings**,
thus benefiting from **agriculture VAT regimes**,

through **Treasury Order HAP/2222/2014**.

<https://www.boe.es/eli/es/o/2014/11/27/hap2222>

In 2015, the Ministry of Employment
created an **special labour regime for resin workers**
and accepted their affiliation to social security as
agricultural workers

<http://www.seg-social.es/wps/portal/wss/internet/Trabajadores/Afiliacion/10548/10562/32868#32876>





Integration of activities

The province of Soria (2014), Guadalajara (2017) and León (2019) have supported resin workers through **three-month contracts to do forestry activities** mitigating seasonality.

Involving a wider concept of forest holding.

Soria (i.e) is a province with a population density below 9 inhabitants/km², with the population decreasing by 42% in the 20th century.

Sustaining resin tapping joined to forestry activities is a strategy devised by the provincial administration to support sustainable rural development.

It's needed to reach Annuals Work Unit (AWUs)

<http://www.dipsoria.es/actualidad/notas-de-prensa/aportacion-de-la-diputacion-de-soria-de-30000-al-sector-resinero-con-la-concesion-de-20-ayudas-para>

Conclusion

- Integration of activities in rural areas
- Overcome the seasonality
- Protect environment, landscape and cultural heritage joined to territory
- Promote the transition to bioeconomy
- From traditional rural workers to professionals



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