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TRUMAP - Networking and Dialogue on Black Truffles and Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in Turkey and Spain

REPORT OF THE FIELD VISITS IN CATALONIA, NORTHEAST SPAIN

12 - 13 December 2016



Partners:

Forest Sciences Centre of Catalonia (CTFC) and
Yaşama Dair Vakıf (YADA Foundation)



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Introduction

This report is part of the project TRUMAP – Networking and Dialogue on Black Truffles and Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) in the southwest of Turkey and northeast of Spain.

The project aims at fostering the production of Black Truffles and MAPs, as alternative crops and wild collection models, to support rural development in the regions of Mugla, Denizli (Aegean Region) and Antalya (Mediterranean Region).

It strives to establish strong links and a high level of cooperation between stakeholders from these Turkish regions and from the Spanish region of Catalonia, to stimulate the exchange of knowledge and experiences concerning the sustainable production (cultivation and wild collection), transformation and trade of these Non-Wood Forest Products, to identify the main obstacles for the development of these sectors, and to jointly find solutions to address them.

With greater understanding of European processing and marketing requirements as well as cultivation/collection practices, the Turkish stakeholders involved in these sectors will be able to develop appropriately their agroforestry system and seize economic opportunities.

The project is under the Civil Society Dialogue IV, a programme bringing together civil society organisations from Turkey and the EU around common topics, to exchange knowledge and experience, and to build a sustained conversation between the organisations.

The Programme is co-financed by the European Union and the Republic of Turkey under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)

Project details

Project Coordinator: Forest Sciences Centre of Catalonia (Spain)

Partners and Countries: Yaşama Dair Vakıf (Turkey)

Duration: 15 months

Locations of Action: Catalonia (Spain), Antalya, Denizli, Muğla (Turkey)

Budget: 160.426,04 Euro

Objectives of the field trips

These field trips were planned and organised with the aim of enhancing the dialogue and exchange between Turkish and Spanish stakeholders through direct encounters at several sites representative of both sectors, MAPs and black truffles, in north-eastern Spain.

Methodology

This activity was first planned as two program visits (one for black truffle and another for MAPs) to meet with the existing companies, producers and research entities that are currently dealing with these products in several sites of Catalonia. However, since several Turkish stakeholders were interested in both products, it was decided to join both visits as one, as we already did in the visits in Turkey in June 2016. The main methodology of the Study visits was onsite interactive dialogue and observational.

These Study visits were addressed to entrepreneurs, producers and technicians from the Turkey. 4 YADA staff participated, together with 11 Turkish people, from the entities associated to the project, joined to the trip. In addition 2 members of the Turkish Forest Service were invited and participated in the study tour (with own financial resources).

For the first day two small buses were rented for the field visits in La Noguera Region with about 17 people (17 Turkish people, 2 CTFC staff and 1 interpreter), 1 CTFC staff joined us in La Noguera Region, and during this day we visited truffle plantations. For the second day one bus was rented and followed a route designed for visiting entities dealing with MAPs and truffle businesses and companies. An interpretation service was provided for all activities. In addition, YADA Foundation and CTFC staff provided translation when necessary. The field trip activities took place over 2 days in the central part of Catalonia (Noguera, Pla d'Urgell, Urgell, Segarra regions). Then, the groups returned to Solsona (Solsonès region) to develop a workshop to discuss impressions and opportunities in the Black Truffles and MAPs sectors the following day (14 Dec).

Field trips overview

Dates: 12-13 Dec 2016

Locations: La Noguera Region (12 Dec), Balaguer, Linyola, Fonolleres, Cervera and Tàrrega (13 Dec), Catalonia, Spain

Organization: Forest Sciences Centre of Catalonia, with the support of Yada Foundation

Participants:

From Turkey:

YADA Foundation: Hande Kösek (Technician), Ayşe Pınar Gürer (Project Manager), Yildiray Lise and Özgür Balcı (NGO DKM-Doğa Koruma Merkezi).

11 Turkish stakeholders from several public and private entities: Oğuz Öztürk and Hüseyin Ay (Morlab), Nazım Şekeroğlu and Sevgi Gezici (ATABDER), Şükrü Durmuş and Hatice Demirbaş, (Civil Servants Union of Agriculture, Forestry, Husbandry and Environment Sectors-Tarım Orman İş Sendikası); Saadet Tuğrul Ay (BATEM-Batı Akdeniz Agricultural Research Institute), Niyazi Uluçoban and Emir Demirsoy (Trüf Mantarı Tanıtım ve Araştırma Derneği), Murat Masun, Özge Ergüler,

2 Turkish staff from General Directorate of Forestry, Emin Şimdi and Galip Çağtay Tufanoğlu.

From Catalan region:

CTFC staff: Eva Moré (MAPs expert), Christine Fischer and Daniel Oliach (Truffles experts), David Solano (Director of International Affairs, Coordinator), Marta Rovira (Project Manager).

Summary of the visits

FIRST DAY, 12.12.16

Visit 1: Truffle plantations in La Noguera Region

SECOND DAY, 13.12.16

Visit 2: Visit Pàmies Hortícoles, Balaguer, Noguera <http://www.pamieshorticoles.com/>

Visit 3: Visit Parc de les Olors de Linyola, Pla d’Urgell, <http://parcdelesolors.com/linyola-pla-durgell/>

Visit 4: Visit Bernau Herbes fields/processing area, Fonolleres, <http://www.bernauherbes.com/>

Visit 5: Visit Bernau Herbes shop, Cervera, <http://www.bernauherbes.com/>

Visit 6: Visit Laumont, Tàrraga, <http://www.laumont.net/ca/>

VISIT 1: TRUFFLE PLANTATIONS IN LA NOGUERA REGION

In La Noguera Region we met with a Spanish truffle stakeholder who has a business which encompasses: 1) the cultivation, collection and commercialization black truffles, 2) commercial production of tree seedlings inoculated with black truffles for establishing truffle orchards, and 3) management of truffle orchards for local farmers. Discussions focused on how to transform a cereal field into a truffle orchard and the necessary farming activities such as soil management, irrigation, weed control and tree pruning necessary over the course of the year for orchards of different ages.



Truffle plantations in La Noguera Region / CTFC

VISIT 2: PÀMIES HORTÍCOLES IN BALAGUER

In our visit to Pàmies Hortícoles we observed the nursery, the processor installations and the shop.

Pàmies Horticultural is a family business with four generations devoted to horticulture. The company currently consists Josep and Miquel, brothers and owners of the farm, and eight to twenty employees depending on the time of year. Josep Pàmies attended us and showed their exploitation and installations.

In the nursery, Josep Pàmies explained the company and the association called Dolça Revolució. The company works for both the recovery of traditional indigenous plants and flowers and for growing herbs and flowers from around the world, which can adapt to the land.



Nursery, Pàmies Hortícoles



Processor room, Pàmies Hortícoles

Finally we visit the shop which is in the same place and they offer all kind of their own products and other products

VISIT 3: VISIT PARC DE LES OLORS DE LINYOLA (AROMA PARK OF LINYOLA)

The Aroma Park of Linyola is one of the Parks that forms part of the Network of Aroma Parks in Catalonia. The Aroma Park of Linyola is situated in the grounds of an old roof tile called Bòbila Xifré and the fields that surround it. The park has 6,000 m² of landscaped area.

The garden area is divided into different parts, a central pergola and two central avenues shaded also with pergolas for shade. There are planted more than 90 species of medicinal and aromatic plants and over 40 species of trees and shrubs. The plants are grouped according to their applications, both culinary, medicinal and aromatic plants, according to the different uses of these plants for objects like baskets, dyes for clothing, tools for the field and other works.

The Park offers guided tours, school visits and workshops, thematic festivals, workshops, lectures, monographs and events (weddings, baptisms, communions, family reunions, business meetings, etc.)

In the shop of the Aroma Park of Linyola it is possible to find products of the Aroma Parks Network and other local products, especially; tea bags, sweets, craft beer with chamomile of Linyola and gifts prepared, seasoned and complemented with their main product, chamomile.



Aroma Park of Linyola



Foto of the group in Aroma Park of Linyola

VISIT 4: VISIT BERNAU HERBES DE L'URGELL S.C.P., FIELDS AND PROCESSING AREA, FONOLLERES

In Fonolleres, Bernau Herbes Company has their fields and processing area. Fèlix de Pedro and Isidre Baucells are the owners; they attended us and explained the Company.

Bernau Herbes is dedicated to the traditional alternative crops such as cereal, almond and olive trees of our region. Mainly they are cultivating plant species for medicinal and aromatic, and others such as olives, almonds ... they produce craftsmen and natural, free of herbicides and pesticides, and high quality active ingredients, taste and appearance.

The main plants they cultivate are : *Equinacea pupurea*, *Equinacea angustifolia*, *Rosmarinus officinalis*, *Salvia officinalis*, *Melissa officinalis*, *Origanum vulgare*, *Menta piperita*, *Menta pulegium*, *Lavandula latifolia*, *Matricaria chamomila*, *Satureja muntana*.





Bernau Herbes Company

VISIT 5: VISIT BERNAU HERBES SHOP, CERVERA

In Cervera Bernau Herbes has the shop. Fèlix de Pedro and Eva Segura showed the products they sell: medicinal plants, herbal teas, honey, essential oils... Besides a wide range of herbal products and natural and organic foods.



Bernau Herbes shop



Bernau Herbes shop

VISIT 6: VISIT LAUMONT, TARREGA

Laumont company is a company located in Tàrrega dedicated to the commercialisation of truffles. In Laumont Joan Casals attended us and explained how they work.

They have 800m² of facilities dedicated exclusively to select, classify, store and distribute the product worldwide, as well as to carry out the whole process of preserved truffles. They have modern facilities to achieve the best guarantee of the highest quality and customer satisfaction.



Conclusions

Following the objectives of the project and the Civil Society Dialogue Programme, the visit tour focused on connecting stakeholders from Turkey and Spain in the truffle and MAPs sectors by opening opportunities for exchange of experiences and ideas.

The dialogue was active and fruitful with the collaboration of many stakeholders, and enthusiasm to talk and discuss themes of mutual interest. Moreover, the participation of multi-stakeholders (private and public actors) contributed to enrich the discussions. We shared information and ideas.

Some stakeholders already knew each other from previous collaborations. This visit was fruitful for them to deepen in their mutual collaboration and see new opportunities for joint projects.

During the visits, the stakeholders could:

- Meet each other face to face
- Know experiences in a different country
- Turkish stakeholders could see Spanish plantations and installations
- See that truffles and MAPs sectors are businesses established in Catalonia

In general, the evaluation of the visits by the many participants has been very positive. This provides a good point to start for further successful relationships in the upcoming visits in Spain.

An important result of these first field trips is the good climate of communication between the various members of both the CTFC and the invited companies.

Given the exchange of knowledge and awareness of areas of expertise of the many participants, the possibility for future collaborations is going on and some ideas to establish collaborative agreements are on the table.

ANNEX I – AGENDA FOR STUDY VISITS

A4. EXCHANGES OF GOOD PRACTICES AND EXPERIENCES IN SPAIN

Black Truffles and Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Network Project – TRUMAP

<http://trumap.ctfc.cat>

Study visits, Catalonia, 12-13 December 2016

Programme

Day	Time	Activity
11.12 SUN	17:30	Meeting first at Hotel Catalonia Sagrada Familia and second at BCN Urban Hotels Gran Ducat and drive to Solsona
	19:30 aprox.	Check-in, dinner, rest (Hotel Solsona Centre, http://www.hotelsolsonacentre.es/)
12.12 MON	8:30 – 10:00	Pick up at the hotel + drive to La Noguera Region
	10:00 – 14:30	Visit several truffle plantations
	14:30 – 16:00	Lunch at Cirera Restaurant
	16:00 – 17:30	Back to Solsona
	20:00	Dinner at Cobert Restaurant
13.12 TUES	8:00 – 9:00	Pick up at the hotel + Journey Solsona - Balaguer
	9:00 – 10:00	Visit Pàmies Hortícoles http://www.pamieshorticoles.com/
	10:00 – 10:30	Journey Balaguer – Linyola
	10:30 – 11:30	Visit Parc de les Olors de Linyola http://parcdelesolors.com/linyola-pla-durgell/
	11:30 – 12:00	Journey Linyola – Fonolleres
	12:00 – 13:30	Visit Bernau Herbes fields and processing area http://www.bernauherbes.com/
	13:30 – 14:00	Journey Fonolleres – Cervera
	14:00 – 16:30	Lunch in Cervera, Bona Teca Restaurant
	16:30 – 17:30	Visit Bernau Herbes shop
	17:30 – 18:00	Journey Cervera –Tàrrrega
	18:00 – 19:15	Visit Laumont http://www.laumont.net/ca/
	19:15 – 20:00	Journey Tàrrrega - Solsona
	20:00	Dinner at Sant Roc Restaurant

ANNEX II – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

From Turkey:

TRUMAP Spain Participant List			
ID	Name / Surname	Institution	Interest
1	Oğuz Öztürk	Morlab	MAPs
2	Hüseyin Ay	Morlab	MAPs
3	Nazım ŞEKEROĞLU	Akdeniz Tıbbi ve Aromatik Bitkiler Derneği – ATABDER	MAPs
4	Sevgi GEZİCİ	Akdeniz Tıbbi ve Aromatik Bitkiler Derneği – ATABDER	MAPs
5	Şükrü Durmuş	Tarım Orman İş Sendikası	Truffle
6	Hatice Demirbaş	Tarım Orman İş Sendikası	Truffle
7	Saadet Tuğrul Ay	BATEM	MAPs
8	Ayşe Pınar Gürer	YADA	Truffle + MAPs
9	Şule Serter	YADA	Truffle + MAPs
10	Özgür Balcı	DKM	Truffle + MAPs
11	Yıldırım Lise	DKM	Truffle + MAPs
12	Niyazi Uluçoban	Trüf Mantarı Tanıtım ve Araştırma Derneği	Truffle
13	Emir Demirsoy	Trüf Mantarı Tanıtım ve Araştırma Derneği	Truffle
14	Murat Masun	OGM	Truffle + MAPs
15	Özge Ergüler	OGM	Truffle + MAPs
	Extras		
16	Galip Çağtay Tufanoğlu	OGM	Truffle + MAPs
17	Emin Şimdi	OGM	Truffle + MAPs

From Spain:

TRUMAP Spain Participant List			
ID	Name / Surname	Institution	Interest
1	Eva More	CTFC	MAPs
2	Christine Fischer	CTFC	Truffle
3	Dani Oliach	CTFC	Truffle
4	David Solano	CTFC	Truffle + MAPs
5	Marta Rovira	CTFC	Truffle + MAPs