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EUROMEDCITRUSNET: SAFE AND HIGH QUALITY SUPPLY CHAINS AND NETWORKS FOR THE CITRUS INDUSTRY BETWEEN MEDITERRANEAN PARTNER COUNTRIES

The EuroMedCitrusNet project has produced a series of reports concerning analyses of the current situation of the citrus supply chain safety and quality in the Mediterranean citrus sector. These reports are available on its website: <http://www2.spi.pt/euromedcitrusnet/documents.asp>.

This series of reports consists of National Sector Analyses for nine EuroMedCitrusNet project countries: France, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco. In addition, there are two Synthesis Reports — one covering EU countries and the other non-EU Mediterranean countries, a Genetic Resources Report, and a Pests and Diseases Report.

These **Sector Analysis Reports** assess the main support structures to citrus sector research, examine the available funding and recent research, the organizations conducting research, citrus sector related networks, and other support organizations including business support organizations. They also consider the policies measures and incentives affecting the sector. Finally, the challenges and problems faced by the sector are summarised as a means to highlight areas which could benefit from improvements, some of which may be influenced by research.

The **Synthesis Reports** highlight the main information in the National Sector Analysis Reports.

The **Genetic Resources Report** lists repositories of citrus genetic resources in seven Mediterranean countries: Portugal, Spain, Greece, Italy, Turkey, Egypt, and Morocco.

The **Pests and Diseases Report** summarises the most common fruit preservation and plant protection issues relevant to the Mediterranean citrus sector.

The project, coordinated by Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação (SPI), began in October 2006 and will run for two years. It is funded by the European Commission's 6th Framework Programme (FP6) under the Food Safety and Quality priority.

In addition to the coordinator SPI, Portugal, the project is being conducted by a number of highly-prestigious institutions:

- University of Catania, Italy
- Cukurova University, Turkey
- National Agricultural Research Foundation, Greece
- Euroquality, France
- Asociacion de Investigacion de la Industria Agroalimentaria (AINIA), Spain
- Institut Agronomique et Veterinaire Hassan II, Morocco
- Horticultural Research Institute, Egypt
- Institut National Agronomique de Tunisie, Tunisia
- Conzorcio Euroagrumi O. P., Italy
- Station D'Emballage D'Agrumes Kabbage Souss, Morocco

Through this project they will bring together scientists and industrialists to create a sustainable Mediterranean network for the citrus sector to support research relevant to safe and high quality cross-border supply chains.

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