

"Castaña del Bierzo", a chestnut Guarantee Label



Pablo Linares Barreal (Asociación Berciana de Agricultores)

Keywords

forest nuts

orchard plantation

chestnut

label

certification

NWFP

Wild Nuts & Berries

Scale

Local

Context

The county of El Bierzo has more than 18,000 ha of chestnut orchards and produces around 8,000 t of chestnuts on average per year. More than 35,000 chestnut growers produce chestnuts in the region due to the extreme smallholdings. The production area corresponds mainly to the region of Bierzo in the west of the Spanish province of Leon. The fruit is variable in terms of characteristics depending on the variety; these are defined according to morphological, sensory and quality characteristics.

Objective

The aim of the guarantee label is to protect chestnuts designated under the "Castaña del Bierzo" designation of origin and the characteristics defined in its regulations.

Results

Nine associated companies that label the product destined to the final client under the Castaña del Bierzo GL

Recommendations

The massive adhesion to the guarantee label by producers and companies, and the evolution of the same to other types of brands with greater depth in the market. Likewise, other brands or quality labels can provide added value to the product, such as sustainable forest management certifications.

Impacts and weaknesses

Companies are making increasing use of the brand. However, exports and bulk transactions are still important, the fruit losing all the added value that can remain in the region. Similarly, although the catalogue of products derived from the Bierzo chestnut is still limited, there is growing interest in transforming the chestnut and its derivatives, especially dry chestnuts and chestnut flour.

Future developments

Compatibility of labels, both management and quality, and development of quality seals that recognize the wild origin of the product.

Further information

Pablo Linares Barreal

Author	Rapporteur	Published on
<p>Contact Roberto Rubi Gutiérrez, Roberto.Rubio@ceseфор.com, http://www.ceseфор.com Pablo Linares Barreal, info@castanadelbierzo.es, http://www.castanadelbierzo.es</p> <p>Organisation Country and region Spain, Castile and Leon</p>	<p>Name Roberto Rubio</p> <p>Organisation Fundación Centro de Servicios y Promoción Forestal y de su Industria de Castilla y León (CESEFOR)</p> <p>Email (hidden)</p>	<p>10 January 2020</p>

About INCREDIBLE Project

INCREDIBLE project aims to show how Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFP) can play an important role in supporting sustainable forest management and rural development, by creating networks to share and exchange knowledge and expertise. 'Innovation Networks of Cork, Resins and Edibles in the Mediterranean basin' (INCREDIBLE) promotes cross-sectoral collaboration and innovation to highlight the value and potential of NWFPs in the region.



Funding

'Innovation Networks of Cork, Resins and Edibles in the Mediterranean basin' (INCREDIBLE) project receives funding from the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme under grant agreement N° 774632.