

Science to practice event - iNet Mushrooms & Truffles



Truffles: Revealing the treasures of the forest

15.5.2019/ Cultural Center of Peristera-Dourouti Monastery, Ioannina

Local organizer: Kalliopi Stara, PhD, Department of Biological Applications and Technology, University of Ioannina, email kstara@cc.uoi.gr

Objectives

Truffles are the fruiting bodies of underground fungi and species from the genera *Terfezia* and *Tuber* are commonly found in Greece. Some species of fungi, including truffles, form mycorrhizas, in a mutually beneficial partnership with the root systems of plants, usually trees. The fungi enhance their partner's ability to exploit water and minerals more effectively and receive carbohydrates in return.

Mushroom picking and truffle hunting are increasingly popular activities in European and Greek forests. There are many recreational or commercial stakeholders involved in a variety of activities such as education, gastronomy and mycotourism. Also, demand for truffles is increasing due to new consumer habits. The rising culinary value of truffles shows potential for further development. The leading challenges for the management of these unique Non-Wood Forest Products include appropriate forest management practices (Mycosilviculture), cultivation techniques for optimizing productivity or variety, and the development of innovative practices that do not affect other forest ecosystem services.

In the light of the public's growing interest in truffles, the aim of this Science to Practice event we present the synergy between TROUFA CLUB and the School of Agriculture of the University of Ioannina. The [TROUFA CLUB](http://www.troufaclub.gr) is an informal group of people interested in truffles that began its activities in 2012 and which in 2014 began to implement its project for Greek truffle trees (local tree species treated with local truffles). The TROUFA CLUB also organizes events to inform the general public about truffles, including tasting and truffle hunting with dogs, which are trained by club members. Its goals include the creation of a Centre for Truffle and Mushroom Research, aiming at a general strategy for management and the development of local opportunities in Epirus.



The Laboratory of Productive Agriculture and Plant Health in the School of Agriculture at the University of Ioannina, focuses on protecting crop production from biotic and abiotic factors, during and after the growing season. The laboratory also carries out research projects related to the application of mycorizal fungi and other beneficial symbiotic organisms to plants grown in conditions of stress. Apart from education, the Laboratory aims to support local farmers in modern technologies and the implementation of good agricultural practices in the management of plant parasites.

The INCREDible project aims to support synergies between research centres and professional organisations (owners & managers) on research and business innovation related to NWFPs in the Mediterranean. The project is coordinated by the European Forest Institute (EFI) and sponsored by a EU's HORIZON 2020 program. The Laboratory of Ecology (Department of Biological Applications and Technology, University of Ioannina) participates in the program, having iNets for mushrooms and truffles, as well as for aromatic and medicinal plants.

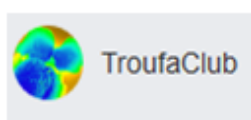
Addressed to Mushroom and truffle pickers, trufficulture nursery owners, truffle cultivators, goods and catering sector, interested members of the general public,

Venue and practical information University of Ioannina (*Cultural Center of Peristera- Dourouti Monastery, University Campus, Ioannina*, starts: 18:00 | ends: 22:00)

Language Greek

Program	
18:00	Registration
18:20	<i>Welcome and Introduction to the meeting</i> John Halley , Laboratory of Ecology, Department of Biological Applications and Technology, University of Ioannina
18:30	<i>The INCREDible project and the iNet for Mushrooms and Truffles</i> Kalliopi Stara , Laboratory of Ecology, Department of Biological Applications and Technology, University of Ioannina
18:40	Basic species of underground mushrooms in Greece and especially Epirus Vassilis Mylonas , Troufa club
18:55	<i>The importance and use of symbiotic microorganisms</i> Dimitra Dimou, Giorgos Patakioutas , Laboratory of Productive Agriculture and Plant Health, School of Agriculture, University of Ioannina
19:05	<i>Truffle vaccinations in plants of the Greek flora</i> Dimitris Kyrkas , Laboratory of Botany, School of Agriculture, University of Ioannina
19:15	<i>Μανιτάρια, τρούφες και διατροφή</i> Eustathios Vasdekis , Epirus Perfecture
19:30	Questions-Discussion
20:00	Truffle hunting. Demonstration by the Troufa club members Katerina Nola and Christos Zivras
21:00	Truffle tasting. With the support of the Institution of Professional Training DELTA 360°
22:00	End of the event

Contact and registration
 Dr Kalliopi Stara
 kstara@cc.uoi.gr



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 774632

www.incredibleforest.net