



INCREDIBLE final conference: Building partnerships for innovation in Mediterranean NWFP value-chains

15th - 16th April 2021

Online event



Coordinator



Partners



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**INCREDIBLE final conference: Building partnerships
for innovation in Mediterranean NWFP value-chains**

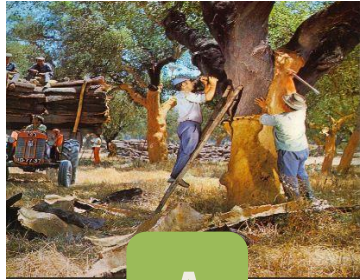
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Non Wood Forest Products: the Portuguese context

Cristina Santos | Graça Louro | Conceição Ferreira | José Rodrigues



A

**NWFP
and Economy**



B

**NWFP
Regulation**



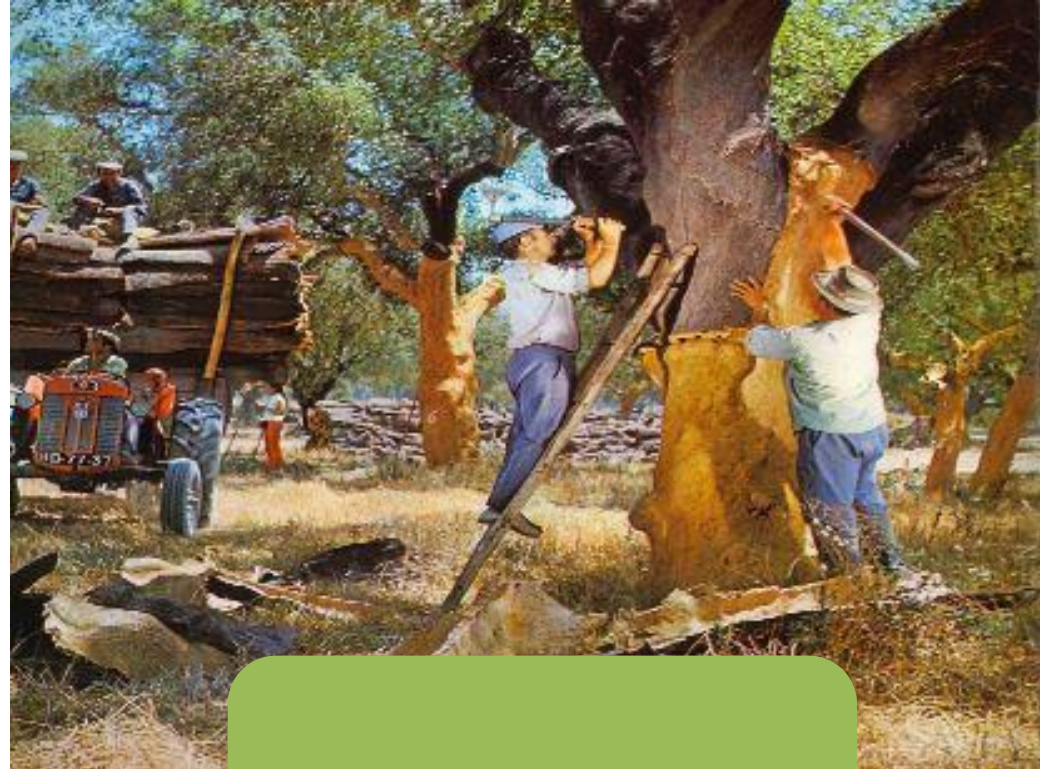
C

**KNOWLEDGE
Networks**



D

CHALLENGES



A

NWFP and Economy

NWFP and economy

NWFPs such as **cork, nuts, resin, mushrooms, herbs, spices, aromatic plants** and **game** have been used by human populations for millennia, having a central role in:

- the **culture and economy**, providing substantive and diverse utilizations, from the **supply of raw material, food/food security, health, employment, traditions** and **cultural identity** among others
- the functioning of healthy **forests** and **agroforestry** areas and in **preserving ecosystems' sustainability**.

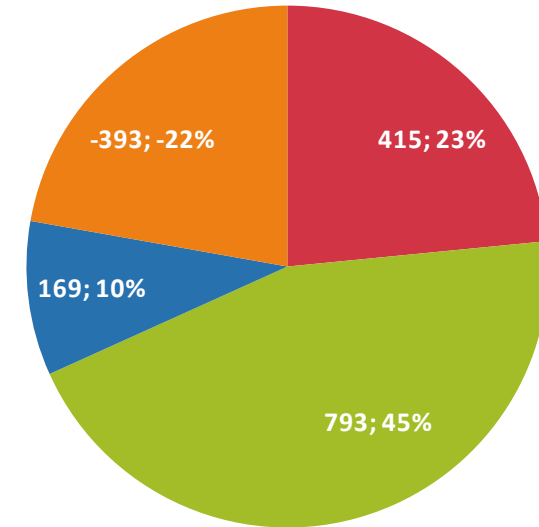
NWFP and economy: The national perspective

Total economic value

In many countries the **contribution of NWFPs to the total economic value** associated with forests is far greater than that of wood.

In Portugal, the **National Strategy for Forests** (Government order nº 6-B / 2015, of 4 February) based the integration of its Strategic aims and developing indicators on the **TOTAL FOREST ECONOMIC VALUE**, confirming NWFPs as major contributors (**45%**) representing **the largest share of the total forest economic value**.

Even so, it is widely recognized the **limitation of information and knowledge** related to NWFPs does not yet allow full and comprehensive economic assessment of forest resources and related economic activities, resulting in **underestimated values**.



■ Production: WFPs

■ Production NWFPs: Cork; Nuts & seeds; Pasture; Resin; Honey; Mushrooms & Aromatics; Hunting & Fishing

■ Protection: Costal areas; Hydric regime; Desertification; Biodiversity.

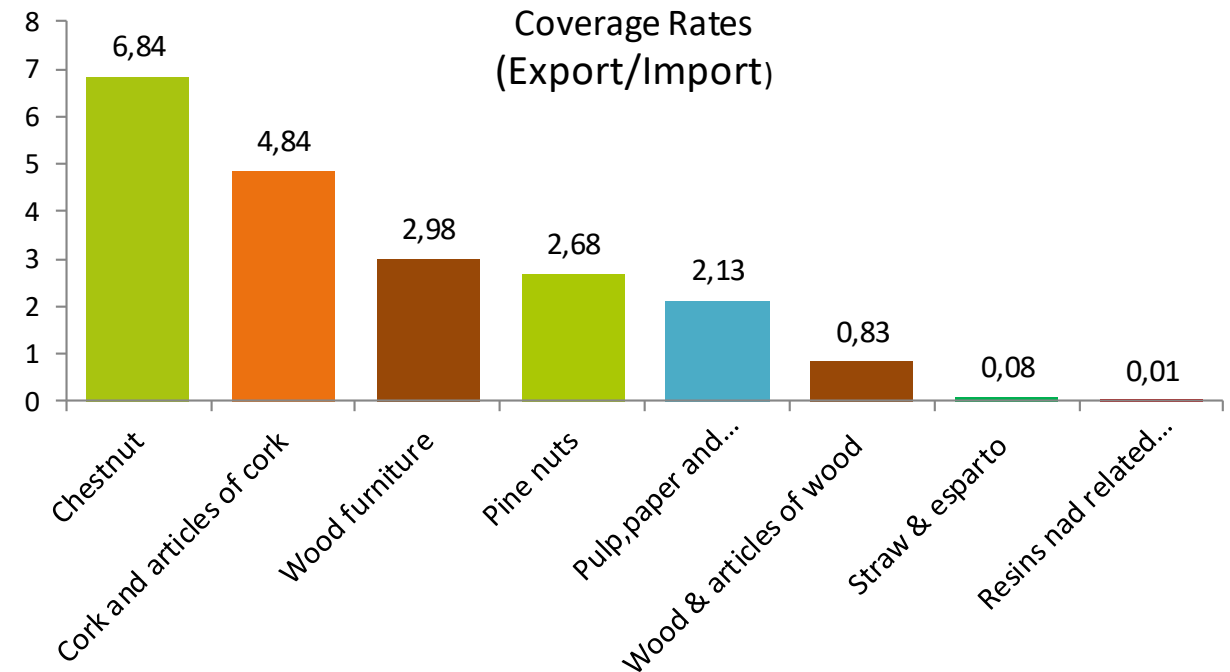
■ Risks: Forest fires; Pests & Diseases & Invasive plants.

(millions euros; %)

NWFP and economy: The national perspective

International Trade

Balance sheet (million euros)	2019
Total National	-20 074
Forest based chains	2 575
NWFPs	857
Cork and articles of cork	861
Chestnut	32
Pine nuts	10
Resins	-38
Straw & esparto	-8
WFPs	1 719



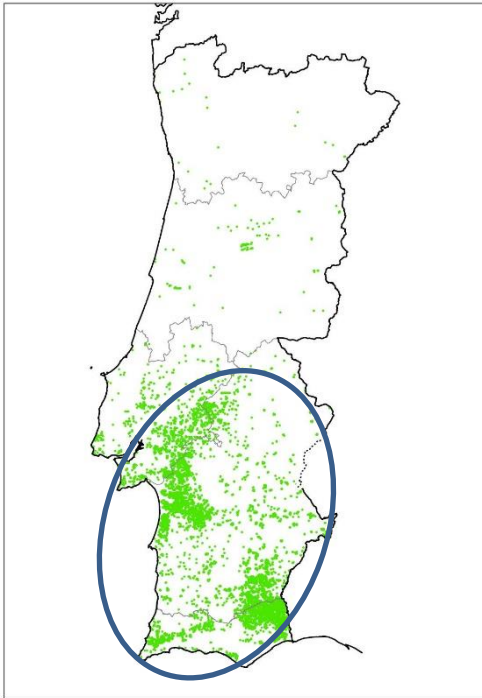
International trade Statistics (from Statistics Portugal) show the contribution of NWFPs in **reducing the Portuguese trade deficit**.

In 2019, these products had a **positive trade balance of 857 million euros** and **coverage rates significantly higher than the unit**, with the highlight of **higher exports than imports**, respectively in:

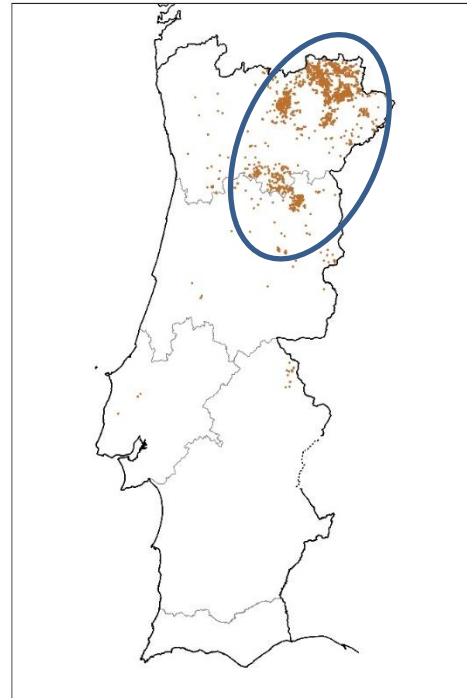
- **6.84 in nuts** (chestnuts & pine nuts); and
- **4.84 in cork based chain**.

The Regional and Local Perspective

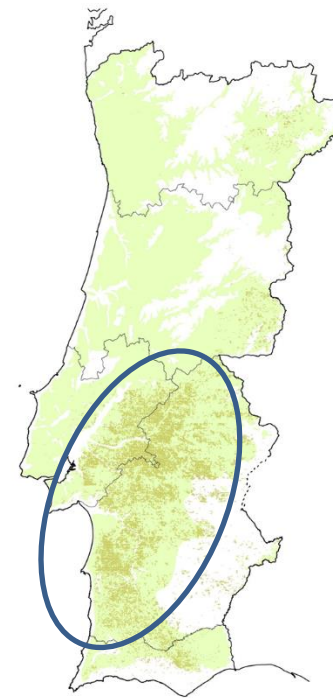
Pine nut stands



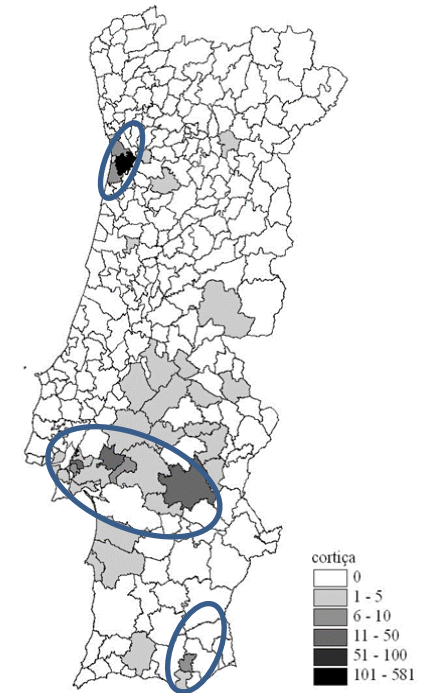
Chestnut stands



Cork oak stands



Cork industries



At **regional and local scales** NWFPs are relevant to the mitigation of historic economic fragilities promoting a more balanced development of the territory

Locally, NWFPs are direct **contributors to the short term rentability of forests and agroforest exploitations** raising their economic viability through the regular incomes/revenues they usually provide, when compared to WFPs.

NWFP and economy

THOUGH:

The relevance of NWFPs in ecological, social and economic dimensions has not been fully assumed and transposed in forest/agroforestry **management practices** and within the valuation of **ecosystems services**, as well as in **forest policies**.

It is even observed, in a generalized way, the underestimation of the role of NWFPs productions.

First and foremost, this circumstance derives from significant **gaps in information about the production chains associated with NWFPs** (namely at forest/agroforestry production level).

The **use/collection** (ex: mushrooms, wild fruits) and **trade** of most of NWFPs—frequently perceived as public goods - are still **dominated by informality**.

Likewise, the **wide variety of NWFPs productions** entails complex/diverse management/harvesting practices and different **procedures/methodologies** for their quantification, valuation and regulation.

NWFP and economy

LEGAL REGIME:

The NWFPs economic interest associated with the need to fill information gaps, ensure resources sustainability and along productive chains lead to the recent revision of the legal frame regulating their economic activities.

The major concerns/objectives were the:

- Sustainability of resources;
- Traceability along the economic circuit, aiming to know the economic operators involved along the production chain;
- Improve information data about NWFPs
- Control illegal practices, namely within harvesting operations

The new regulation framework encompass the creation of information systems through electronic platforms accessible at ICNF website.



B

NWFP Regulation

Economic Valuable NWFP



SPECIFIC REGULATION



CORK



PINE NUTS



RESIN

NWFP Regulation

CORK

- legislation since 1927 as part of regime to protect “forest richness”
- several updates
- a broader version in 97
- revised in **2001**

MAIN OBJECTIVES:

Sustainability of *Quercus suber* forests
Improve economic value

KEY FEATURES

Assure protection of stands: regeneration and soil protection
Authorisation required for harvesting, thinning and pruning
Debarking rules (linked to tree parameters)
Mandatory production declaration (after debarking)



NWFP Regulation

CORK

MAIN DIFFICULTIES

- Unclearity of certain situations requiring authorisation
- Doesn't allow to trace flows of products
- Heavy administrative burden
- Cork production declarations not fully digital/internet

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

- Improve registration system to became fully digital/internet
- Linkage with other information systems



NWFP Regulation

RESIN

- legislation since 1938
- several updates
- major change in **2015**

MAIN OBJECTIVES:

Protect pine forests by avoiding damages and overexploitation

Increase the value of pine forests

Increase transparency along the supply chain

KEY FEATURES

Extraction rules – tree parameters

Traceability - mandatory information on all phases of the supply chain

On-line platform to register activities: extraction, transport, storage, import, export, first processing



NWFP Regulation

RESIN

MAIN DIFFICULTIES

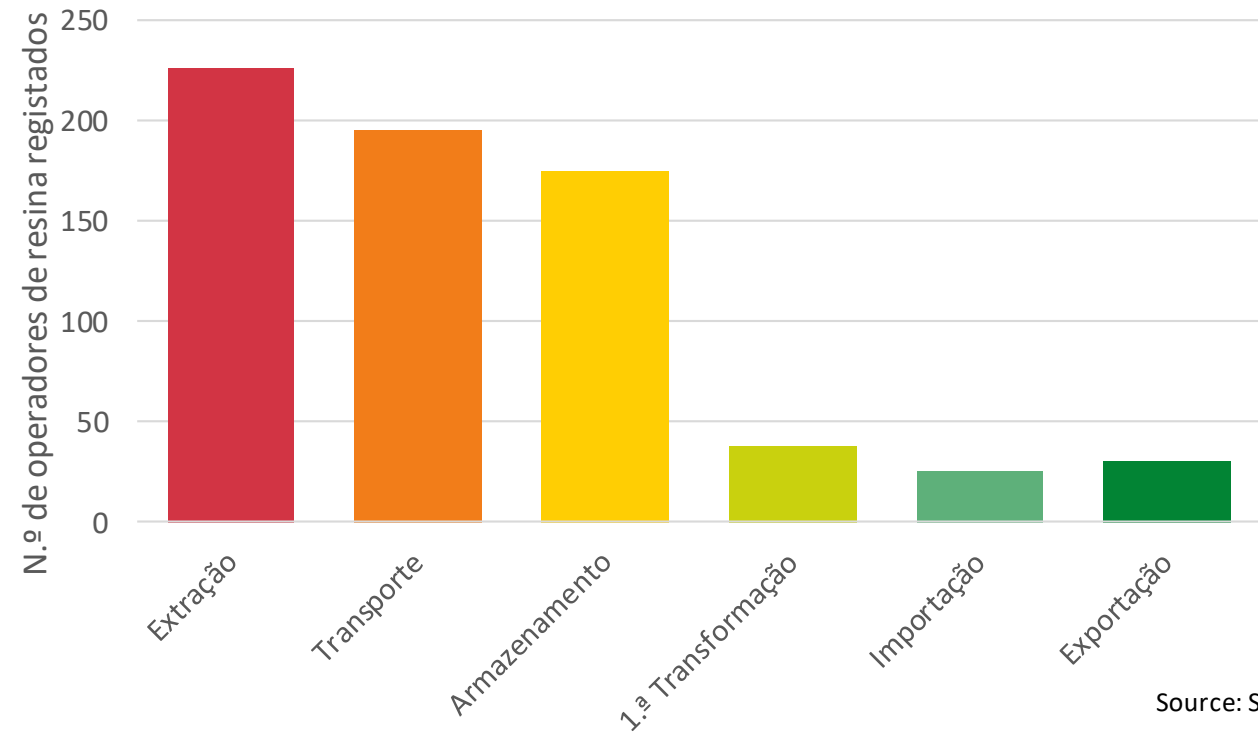
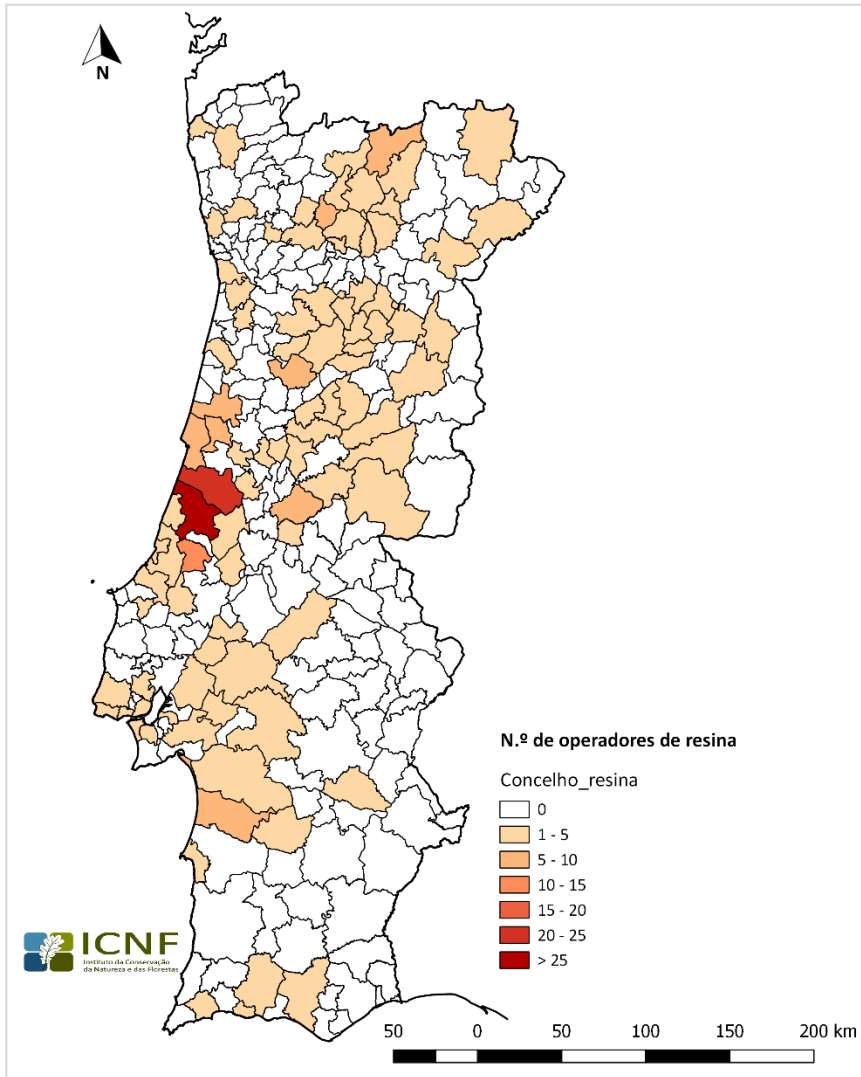
- Low number of validated declarations
- Have forest owners to confirm information
- Assess the quantity actually marketed (estimates)

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

- Increase knowledge, awareness and training for forest owners
- Increase the involvement of all operators along the resin supply chain
- Adjust to research and technology advances

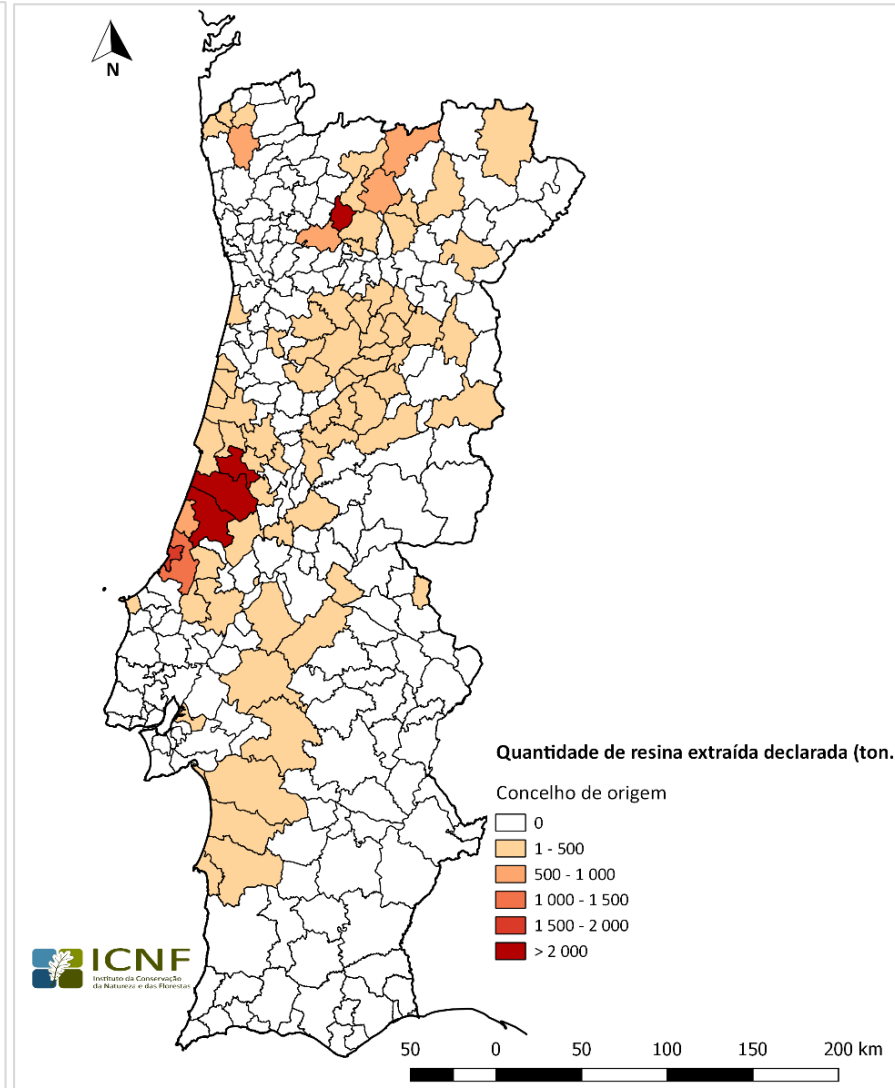
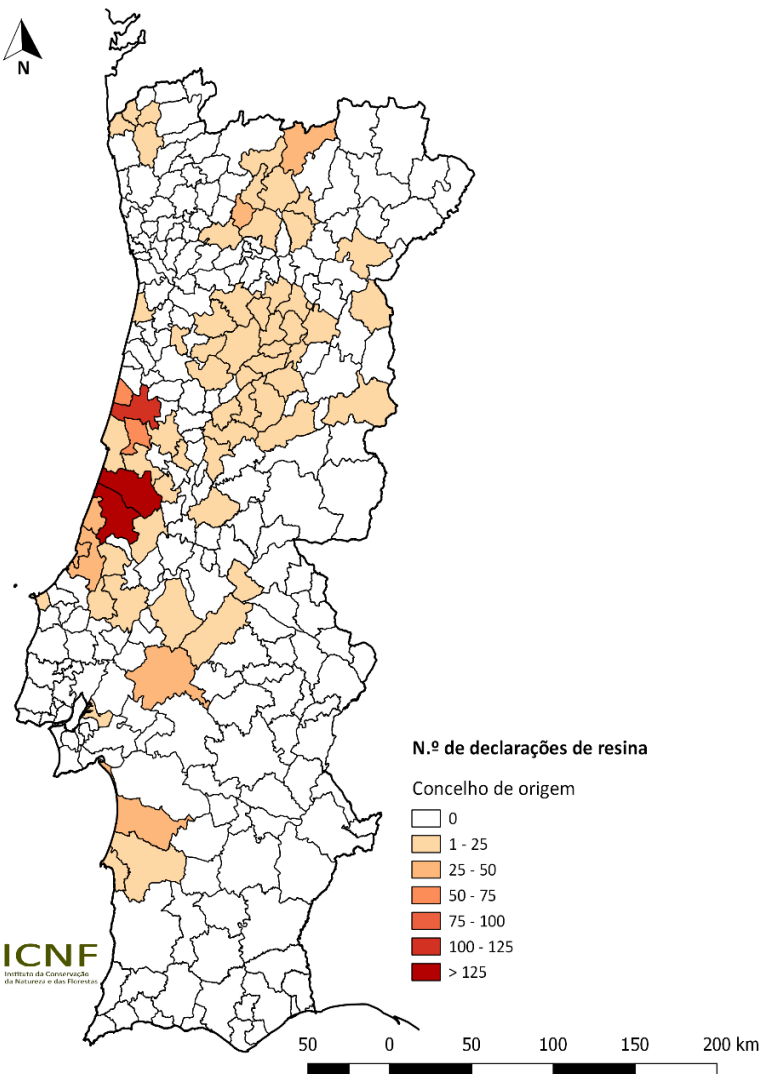


REGISTER OF OPERATORS



261 operators registered
87% extraction activity
75% transport activity

DECLARED EXTRACTION ACTIVITY



- Total of **1,372 declarations** for extraction activity
- Approximately **23.5 thousand tons** of resin declared

Source: September 30th

NWFP Regulation

PINE NUTS (*Pinus pinea*)

- legislation since 1938
- several updates
- major change in **2015**

MAIN OBJECTIVES:

Increase the value of pine forests
Increase **transparency**

KEY FEATURES

Defined harvesting season (mature cones)

Traceability - mandatory pre-extraction information on all phases of the supply chain

On-line platform to register activities: extraction, transport, import, export, final destination

(HARVESTING NOT ALLOWED BETWEEN 1ST APRIL AND 1ST DEC)



NWFP Regulation

PINE NUTS (*Pinus pinea*)

MAIN DIFFICULTIES

Quantities of pines nuts are estimates
Checks on operators to prevent pine cone stealing

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Increase knowledge, awareness and training for forest owners
Genetic improvement to increase the productivity of pine nuts

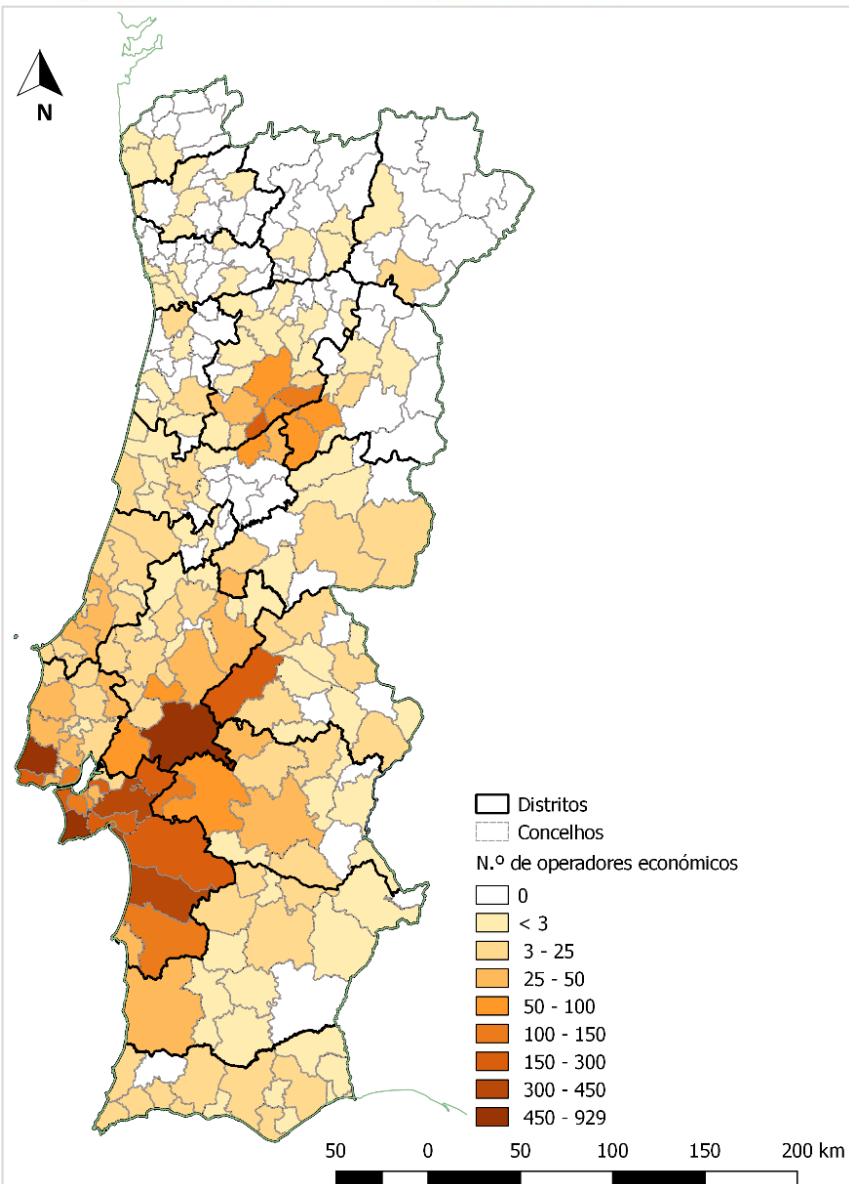


REGISTER OF OPERATORS



Source: December 3rd

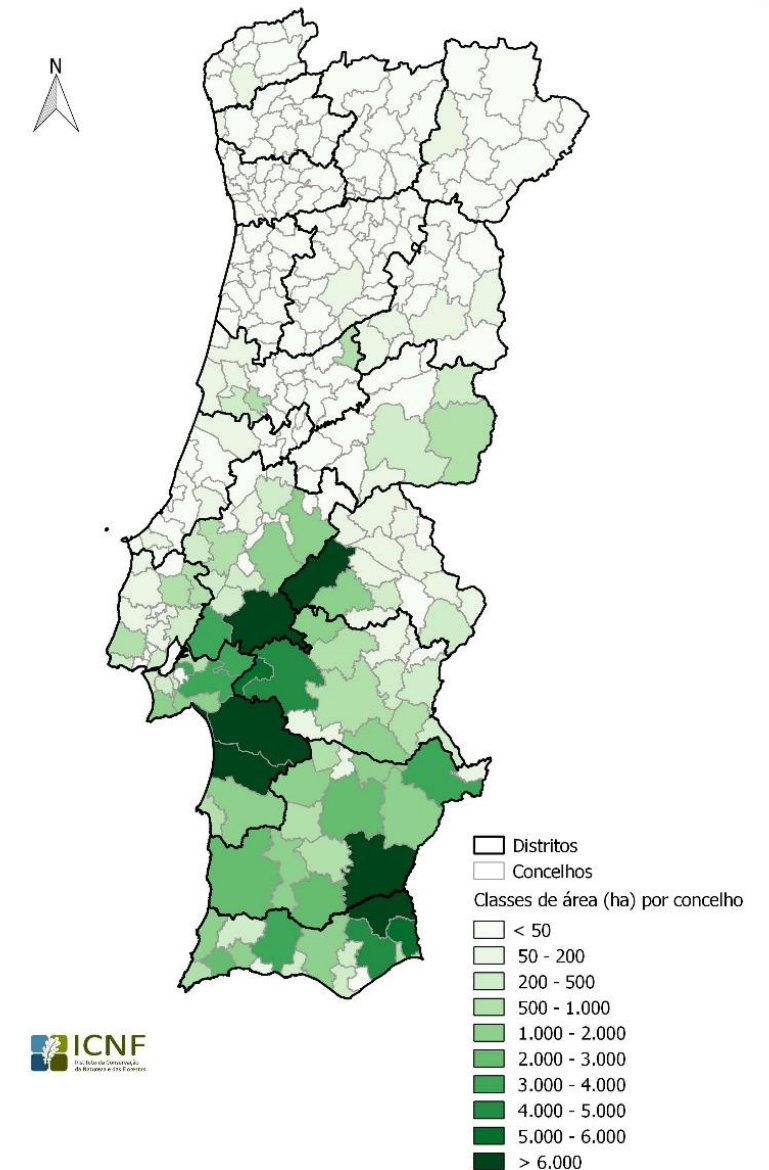
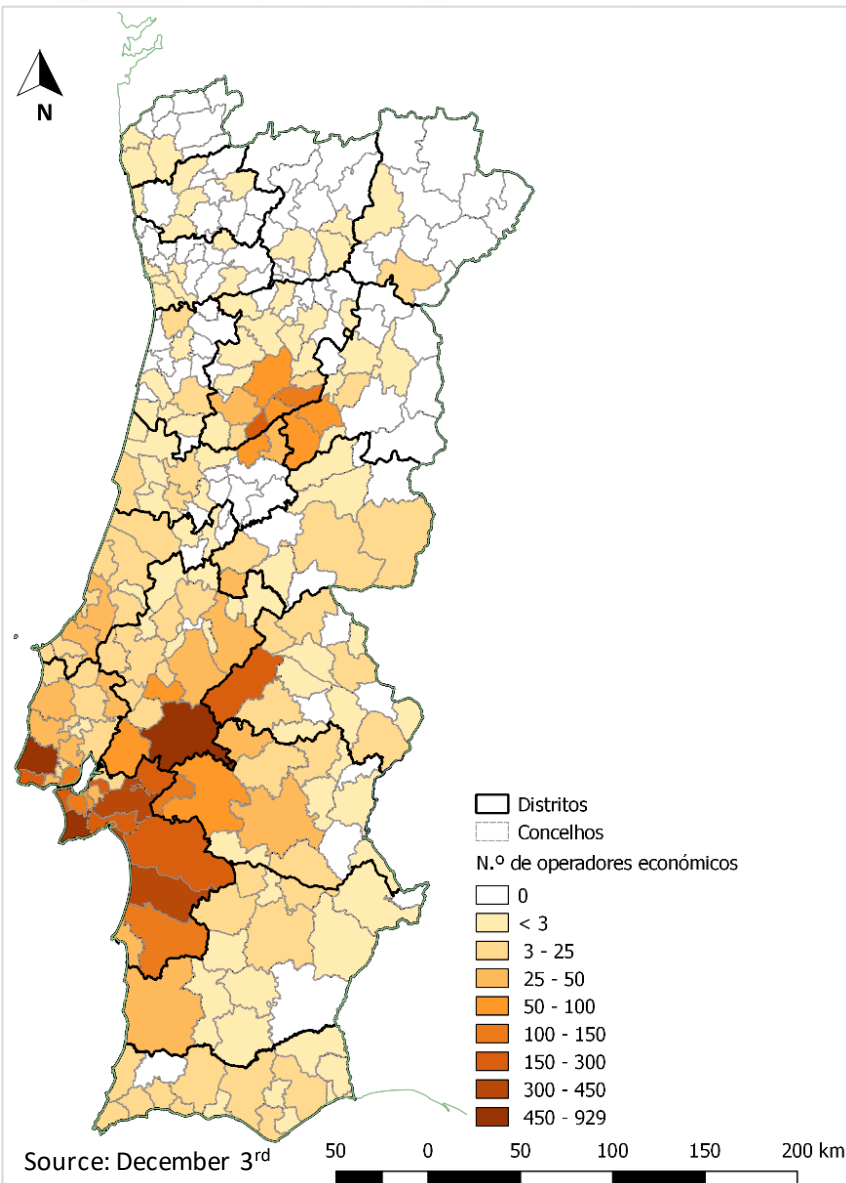
6 696 operators registered
98% harvest of pine nuts activity
93% transport activity



15th - 16th April 2021

DECLARED ACTIVITY

- **5 109** operators declare **harvesting** activity
- approximately **217 thousand tons** of pine nuts declared



WHAT ABOUT REGULATING OTHER NWFP?

WILD MUSHROOMS

A few attempts to regulate the sector since 2009 but lack of agreement

WILD AROMATIC AND MEDICINAL PLANTS

One attempt to regulate in 2009 failed

WILD BERRIES

No interest, so far

However

- These activities are limited and may even be forbidden in Protected Areas
- Some municipalities have local regulations



C

Knowledge Networks

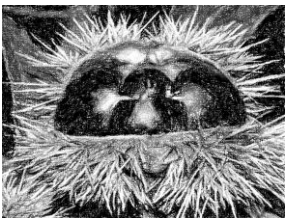
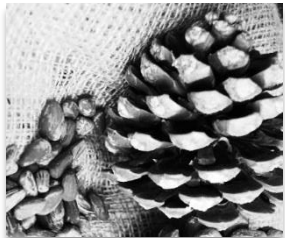
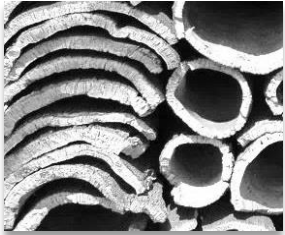
CENTRE OF COMPETENCES

- *Quercus suber* and cork
- *Pinus pinaster*
- *Pinus pinea* and nuts
- (Other) Nuts (*chestnut, almond, walnut, hazelnut, carob and pistachio*)
- (Other) Wild Resources (*strawberry tree, mushrooms - wild and cultivated-
and other plants such as fennel or cardoons*)
- Beekeeping and biodiversity (*honey and other products from beekeeping*)

OBJ:

To cooperate, pull together and expand knowledge to solve problems identified by stakeholders – producers, industry

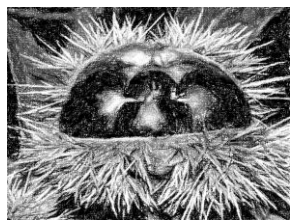
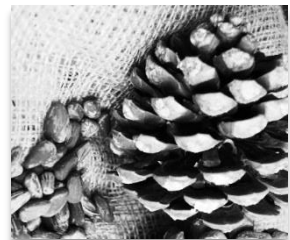
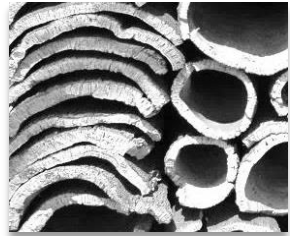
- Research Agenda -



OPERATIVE GROUP NWFP

19

**OBJ: WORK TOGETHER TO SOLVE
SPECIFIC PROBLEMS**



CORK

7

AROMATIC

2

BEEKEEPING

2

RESIN

1

NUTS

5

PINE NUTS

2



D

Challenges

Challenges

Main constrains	Main challenges
Substantial gaps in NWFPs based sector data and information systems	Promote organization of information systems and the better accountability from private to public stakeholders and vice versa.
Bureaucratic proceedings associated with the legal framework (regulation)	<p>Minimize the legal burden, whilst keeping essential regulating requirements, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability of resources and industrial activities; • Fulfilling sectorial information needs (including for national reporting to EUROSTAT and other bodies) • Preventing illegal activities

THANK YOU

Thank you!

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