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## Policy Forum “Untapping the potential of non-wood forest products for Europe's green economy”

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Online event

# Labour and fiscal policies supporting resin holdings in Spain



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**Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge of Spain**

## Modern resin activity in Spain

1850

1880

1960

2010

2021



**HISTORIA TÉCNICA  
DE LA RESINA EN  
ESPAÑA  
1826-1936**



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1865

1999  
Cut down

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## Pine resin business models

There are two types of resin holdings in Spain:



**1. Forest owners (private or public) who manage pine forests and sell the right to tap their pines:**

Pine forests are *managed mainly for wood production* in rotations of between 40 and 100 years  
They produce resin for 5 to 25 or 30 years

**2. Resin tappers who pay an annual rent for the pines:** They work daily in the pine forests *between March and October*, installing their utilities, debarking, tapping and collecting the resin

## Pine resin workers conditions

Resin workers sign an annual commercial contract with the resin industry

Some resin workers are integrated in **cooperatives** but *most of them are self-employed.*

Around 1/3 of them combine the resin activity with others but *most of them have resin activity as their only income activity*

Their main problem is **seasonality:**

*resin activity only lasts 8 months*



## The National Association of Resin Workers

*was created in 2013*

<https://asociacionnacionalresineros.wordpress.com/acerca-de/>

And they joint the existing sectoral organization in  
Castilla y León (CyL):

the CyL Regional Resin Roundtable,

*created in 2011 (...resin interbranch organization)*

<https://www.resinacyl.es/contenido/la-mesa-la-resina-castilla-leon>



They asked for fiscal and labour improvements,  
*because their labor regime was not clear*



PLAN FOR  
**SOCIOECONOMIC ACTIVATION  
OF THE FOREST SECTOR**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



In 2014, the national government passed the  
*“Plan for the Socioeconomic  
Activation of the Forest Sector”*

that included

**80 measures** to develop several **forest value chains**  
based on timber and NWFP

**9 measures** were oriented towards **resin production**

<https://www.miteco.gob.es/gl/biodiversidad/temas/politica-forestal/plan-pasfor/default.aspx>



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## The 9 measures to promote resin activity in Spain (2014):

30. **Encourage associativism and cooperativism** among resin producers.
31. Support the creation of a **resin interbranch organisation (IBO)** to improve the sector structuring.
32. Promote and provide encouragement for the signing of **contracts between producers and industry**
33. Take into consideration the resin sector as an activity that contributes to **Rural Development**.
34. Facilitate the **cooperation** between the different producing regions and all the key players (administration, resin collectors, industry, research centres), through the creation of **information platforms** and **communication channels**, the organisation of conferences, the creation of a specific entity for the sector, etc.
35. Promote the **collaboration with producing Member States (France, Portugal and Greece)**, adopting common stances and consolidating an acting strategy that allows to influence the EU's politics.
36. **Integrate resin activities with other forest management activities** (fire prevention, silvicultural treatments, etc.)
37. Propose the recognition of a **labour and fiscal status for resin workers**, to promote the ordered extraction of resin from the pine woods.
38. Promote the **training and information** of all concerned agents.

There are 4 measures particularly relevant for workers:

32. Standard contracts between producers and industry

36. Integration of activities: resin activities with other forest management activities  
*to overcome seasonality*

37. Improve the labour and fiscal regime  
for resin workers.

38. Training

The Ministry, the regional administrations and the resin sector have since then been working on them.





## Fiscal and labour regime:

In 2014, the National Government recognized that

**resin workers** could be considered **managers of agricultural holdings**,  
thus benefiting from **agriculture VAT regimes**,

through **Treasury Order HAP/2222/2014**.

<https://www.boe.es/eli/es/o/2014/11/27/hap2222>

In 2015, the Ministry of Employment  
created an **special labour regime for resin workers**  
and accepted their affiliation to social security as  
agricultural workers

<http://www.seg-social.es/wps/portal/wss/internet/Trabajadores/Afiliacion/10548/10562/32868#32876>





## Integration of activities

The province of Soria (2014), Guadalajara (2017) and León (2019) have supported resin workers through **three-month contracts to do forestry activities** mitigating seasonality.

### **Involving a wider concept of forest holding.**

Soria (i.e) is a province with a population density below 9 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>, with the population decreasing by 42% in the 20th century.

Sustaining resin tapping joined to forestry activities is a strategy devised by the provincial administration to support sustainable rural development.

It's needed to reach Annuals Work Unit (AWUs)

<http://www.dipsoria.es/actualidad/notas-de-prensa/aportacion-de-la-diputacion-de-soria-de-30000-al-sector-resinero-con-la-concesion-de-20-ayudas-para>

## Conclusion

- Integration of activities in rural areas
- Overcome the seasonality
- Protect environment, landscape and cultural heritage joined to territory
- Promote the transition to bioeconomy
- From traditional rural workers to professionals



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