

ICAAM – Apresentação e Descrição em Inglês

The Institute of Mediterranean Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (ICAAM) is a Research and Development Unit at Évora University, with 118 senior researchers and about 100 associated PhD students. ICAAM is located on “Campus da Mitra”, an experimental farm covering 285 ha in Alentejo (southern Portugal), 12 km from the city of Évora.

The mission of ICAAM'S is to promote the sustainability of Mediterranean Agriculture and related Ecosystems for Rural Development and Society Well-Being, through:

- The efficiency in the use of production factors;
- The quality and added-value of agri-food products;
- Ecosystems integrity and landscape multifunctionality

ICAAM gathers researchers from multiple scientific areas, and dealing with topics such as genetics, bio-technology, plant improvement and protection, animal production and health, farm technology, conservation and management of soil, water and climate, food quality, rural communities and territorial cohesion, and the rural landscape. The research at multiple scales, is organized with a system approach, high levels of interdisciplinary, and a strong and continuous interaction with stakeholders. ICAAM research is guided by questions emerging from practice, aiming to respond to the many societal challenges within the Mediterranean context. Shaping the integration of scientific domains and relation to practice, five large integrative programmes gather all research contributions towards common goals. These programs deal with the production systems and value chains which are more relevant in the Mediterranean context: silvo-pastoral systems, olive groves and olive oil, vineyards and wine, irrigated agriculture, animal production and health. The programs structure the research so that the knowledge produced contributes to decision-making in practice.

ICAAM researchers participate in 24 international projects, including 8 H2020 projects. One of these projects is coordinated by ICAAM. Further, there are 28 on-going national projects. And a diversity of research and research-practice partnerships at national and international levels.

A strong component of ICAAM are its labs and research infrastructures. These facilities include 22 laboratories with specialized topics and equipment, and 10 experimental support units. These infrastructures are available to all ICAAM members and authorized visitors.