

PRACTICE ABSTRACT

## SHARING EXPERIENCES FROM: PORTUGAL

### Advantages of joint management on mixed farms – Montado system Part I

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In our study, we emphasized the collaborative management of two Montado farms and a third farm engaged in forage and traditional olive orchard production. One of the Montado farms specializes in sheep production alongside cork harvesting, while the other focuses on cattle production, cork harvesting, and pig fattening. To enhance sustainability and economic performance, the cattle farm transitioned away from nitrogen fertilizers, opting instead for legume pastures complemented by phosphate fertilizers and dolomite limestone application. Additionally, resource-sharing initiatives among the farms, facilitated by their joint management, contributed to improved economic and environmental outcomes through:

- **Diversification of Forage Crops:** Cultivation of a variety of forage crops, well-suited to the region, can help increase pasture biomass for both sheep and cattle.
- **Reducing the need for external forage purchases.**
- **Optimize Livestock Mix:** Adjusting the livestock mix on the cattle farm to better match available pasture resources. Integrating livestock breeds that pose a lower risk for soil erosion.
- **Alternative Revenue Streams:** Identify alternative revenue streams that can complement livestock production, such as agritourism or the sale of sustainably harvested cork products.
- **Sustainable Land Management:** Such as rotational grazing and soil conservation measures, to optimize forage production.

By implementing these recommendations and building on the existing resource-sharing initiatives, Montado farms can work towards increased sustainability, profitability, and resilience in the face of evolving environmental and economic challenges.





## ABOUT MIXED IN PORTUGAL

In Portugal the project is implemented by ISA-UL, CONSULAI and a network of farmers practicing Mixed Farming and Agroforestry Systems, in particular Montado, a UNESCO protected Mediterranean mixed system, comprising agroforestry activities and extensive livestock production.

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

**MIXED** (Multi-actor and transdisciplinary development of efficient and resilient MIXED farming and agroforestry systems), an EU-project, is supporting the development of European Mixed Farming and Agroforestry Systems (MiFAS) that are more efficient and resilient to climate changes.

7M€

BUDGET

19

PARTNERS

10

COUNTRIES

The Portuguese network aims at restoring and modernising the Montado ecosystem, by working in collaboration with farmers, researchers, policy makers and other stakeholders. The main objective is to find solutions for the future and more sustainable management practices, accommodating the interests of stakeholders at all levels of the value chain. The Portuguese network integrates 15 farms, with over 20.000 hectares of farmland in the Alentejo region in the south of Portugal. CONSULAI and ISA-UL are the project managing partners in Portugal.



### MIXED partners from Portugal:

