

Seeds of the Mediterranean III. From Mediterranean By-products to New Opportunities: Circular Economy and Innovative Uses of Local Resources

December 2026 – Online (Microsoft Teams)
Language: English
Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes

1. Context

The Mediterranean Cluster is a cooperation group in which the **National CAP Networks** of Mediterranean EU Member States meet **every month**. The participating countries are: **Italy, France, Romania, Spain, Greece, Portugal, Cyprus, Malta and Croatia**.

The group is **moderated by the** EU CAP Network and serves as a platform to exchange knowledge, coordinate initiatives and address common challenges faced by Mediterranean regions.

During one of the recent **in-person Mediterranean Cluster meetings**, the idea emerged to create a recurring series of webinars to give greater visibility to innovative projects, share solutions that can be transferred across countries, and strengthen collaboration in the Mediterranean area.

As a result, in 2026 the Mediterranean Cluster launched a new webinar series titled **"Seeds of the Mediterranean"**. The series features one webinar every four months, each focusing on relevant topics for Mediterranean rural areas, such as water management, climate resilience, natural resources, circular economy and agricultural innovation.

The first webinar of the series, held on **16 March 2026**, focused on **Water Management** and received very positive feedback, with strong participation and interest from stakeholders across different Mediterranean countries.

Building on the success of the first edition, the **second webinar** took place on **30 June 2026**, focusing on **Water Sustainability and Circular Solutions for Mediterranean Agriculture**, and further explored innovative approaches to addressing shared challenges across the Mediterranean region.

Continuing this exchange of knowledge and experiences, the Mediterranean Cluster is organising the **third webinar of the series**, which will take place on **16 December 2026**, from **11:00 to 12:30 CET**, and will focus on "**From Mediterranean By-products to New Opportunities: Circular Economy and Innovative Uses of Local Resources**". The webinar will be held **entirely in English**.

The theme selected for this third edition is:

From Mediterranean By-products to New Opportunities: Circular Economy and Innovative Uses of Local Resources.

The Mediterranean region offers a wide range of agricultural by-products and local natural resources with significant potential for new uses and applications. In this context, circular economy approaches and innovation can play a key role in transforming these resources into valuable products, reducing waste, generating added value and promoting more sustainable production systems.

This third webinar aims to provide a collaborative space to showcase practical solutions, innovative projects and transferable experiences related to the valorisation of Mediterranean by-products and local resources, highlighting how these initiatives can create new opportunities for agriculture and rural territories across the Mediterranean.

2. Specific Objectives

This third "Seeds of the Mediterranean" webinar is designed to:

- Give visibility to innovative projects and good practices focused on the valorisation of agricultural by-products and local resources.
- Highlight the contribution of circular economy approaches to more sustainable production systems.
- Foster knowledge exchange among Mediterranean countries.
- Share practical and transferable solutions that create added value from local resources.
- Promote discussion on the potential of innovation and circular economy to support sustainable agriculture and rural development across the Mediterranean.

3. Target Audience

The webinar is intended for a wide range of stakeholders involved in agriculture, innovation, circular economy and the sustainable use and valorisation of agricultural by-products and local resources, including:

- Farmers and agricultural producers.
- Advisory and extension services.
- Operational Groups and innovation projects.
- Universities and research centres.
- Experts in circular economy, resource efficiency and the valorisation of agricultural by-products.
- Companies and SMEs (developing innovative products, materials and applications from agricultural by-products and local resources).
- Public administrations and managing authorities.
- Rural networks and CAP networks from Mediterranean countries.
- Organisations working on sustainability and innovation.

4. Programme

Time	Content
11.00 -11.05	Welcome and opening
11.05- 11.20	**OakFood: Development of innovative acorn-based products, Portugal** *By Silvia Moreira* By-product Valorization & Management Specialist and Project Manager at Food4Sustainability CoLAB, with a PhD in Food Science and Technology
11.20 - 11.35	**Narducci Brothers Oil Mill, Italy** *By to be confirmed*
11.35 – 11.50	**GO-OLIVA: Industrial utilization of olive pits for the manufacture of sustainable products, Spain** *By Jaime Andrés Olea* Degree in Chemistry from the University of Salamanca and a Master's degree in Applied and Pharmacological Chemistry, with a specialization in advanced materials from Jaume I University in Castellón. AIMPLAS
11.50 - 12.05	**Recovery of high added value products from the olive mill waste of the Imeros Agricultural Cooperative for use in the production of innovative animal feed, Greece** *By Dr. Panagiotis Madesis* Researcher at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, specialising in plant genetics and biotechnology, with research experience in the development of innovative applications for agricultural and biological resources.
12.05 - 12.25	Questions and answers - using **Padlet**
12.25 – 12:30	Closing Remarks

3rd Webinar

SEEDS of the MEDITERRANEAN



December 16th

FROM MEDITERRANEAN BY-PRODUCTS TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES: CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND INNOVATIVE USES OF LOCAL RESOURCES











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3rd Webinar

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SPEAKERS









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Jaime Andrés Olea

Spain



With a degree in Chemistry, Jaime currently focuses on R&D projects at AIMPLAS centred on waste recovery, bioplastics and innovative functional materials for agriculture.

GO-OLIVA: Development of innovative materials and bioplastic compounds using olive by-products







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Panagiotis Madesis

Greece



Researcher at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, specialist in plant genetics and biotechnology – innovative applications for agricultural and biological resources.

Recovery of high added value products from the olive mill waste for use in the production of innovative animal feed







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Sílvia Moreira

Portugal



By-product Valorization & Management Specialist and Project Manager at Food4Sustainability CoLAB, with a PhD in Food Science and Technology.

OakFood – Integrated Valorisation of Acorns as a Portuguese Raw Material for Differentiated Food Products







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