

## Portugal – innovation example 4

### ACORN WEEK

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[www.en.icaam.uevora.pt](http://www.en.icaam.uevora.pt)

- **Location:** Central Alentejo, Portugal
- **HNV system :** Agrosilvopastoral system
- **Scale of operation:** Municipality of Montemor-o-Novo
- **Timespan:** Since 2016 (two editions of the acorn week have happened)



Figure 1



Figure 2

#### The innovation in a nutshell

During the acorn week, restaurants and cafeterias in Montemor-o-Novo have meals and food products that use acorns from the Montado. This week is used as a time for creating awareness to locals and visitors to the value of acorns as a food for humans, rather than an exclusive feed for animals. Schools are involved in this week campaign and there are animation events such as show cooking, exhibition of products and walk trails involving different actors. Up to the beginning of the XXth century, acorns were used frequently as food for humans, mostly amongst poorer people. More recently the use of acorns for food was mostly connected to poverty and thus was almost abandoned. At present therefore, the use of acorns for human food with a new approach, represents a retro-innovation that is gathering more and more supporters.

#### Achievements for HNV farming

Increased awareness on the use of acorns for human consumption. Potential improvement on the economic viability of the HNV Montado by adding value on one of its products- acorns.

#### The process that made the innovation happen and critical factors for success

The herdade do Freixo do Meio was at the origin of this initiative with acorn meetings involving scientists and practitioners in order to explore different food uses for acorns. The involvement of the municipality of Montemor-o-Novo in the organization of the initiative and engagement of different actors is crucial for the success of this initiative.

#### Potential for replication?

It is replicable for other products or other HNV systems.

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