IDENTIFICATION, TYPIFICATION AND PROMOTION OF TRADITIONAL GRAPE VARIETIES FOR LOCAL WINE PRODUCTION IN GALICIA

ESTABLISHING OPERATIONAL GROUPS UNDER RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES.
(PUTTING PRINCIPLES INTO PRACTICE)
Lisbon, 27th February 2014

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www.mbg.csic.es/vitis
What is the location or regions involved in the project?

- **SPAIN (North-West)**
  - Plot 9

- **Galicia (Autonomous region)**
  - Plot 8

- **Betanzos (A Coruña province)**
  - Plot 3

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What was the project about?

VITICULTURE

The rescue of a winegrowing area on the edge of extinction

Which locations are more suitable for wine production?

Which varieties from those traditionally growing in Betanzos are the best for winemaking?

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What was the starting Need/Problem/Opportunity?

A group of vine growers and owners of vineyards were interested in recovering the vine growing area of Betanzos.

The private Foundation “Juana de Vega”, located in the same area, were interested in any initiative to improve the formation and the competitiveness of the companies and/or the individuals who develop their activity in the Galician food and agriculture sector.
Who started the project (who had the starting idea)?
How was the idea developed?

How to recover the vine growing area?

Is it possible to do anything?

Send us your proposals please!

The proposal made by the CSIC-Viticulture Research Group is selected by the Foundation

The Foundation suggested the integration of some other groups and institutions in the project

The proposal became a project....

Dr. Carmen Martínez
Head of Viticulture Group
(Misión Biológica de Galicia-CSIC)
Who are the partners in the group?

**Fundación Juana de Vega**
D. Enrique Sáez Ponte
D. José Manuel Andrade

**Consejo Superior Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)**
Misión Biológica de Galicia
Dra. Carmen Martínez Rodríguez

**Xunta de Galicia**
Estación Viticultura e Enoloxía de Galicia
Dr. Ignacio Orriols Fernández

**Vine Growers**
8 farmers
José Antonio Buyo, José Ángel Novo,
María José Porto, Teresa Beade,
José Antonio Beade, Antonio Otero,
Benito Dopazo, Eladio Migal and J. R. Purriños

**Asociación Terra das Mariñas**
Asociación de Viticultores e Adegueiros de Betanzos e Comarca

**Funding**

**Coordinators**
Research Project Responsible Viticulture

**Enology**
Some Crop managements

**Vineyards/plots**

**Advisors/Observers**
How did partners meet?

Several participants from different institutions and groups

Centro de Formación e Experimentación Agraria de Guíxamo (Xunta de Galicia)


Several participants from different institutions and groups

Wine growers associations

Wineries

A CHANCE ENCOUNTER

Followed by additional meetings, interviews and required information by Juana de Vega Foundation prior the final decision
How were demands and needs from partners articulated and conciliated?

The research group proposes the possibility of paying a rent for each vine used in the project.

Open list to those vinegrowers willing to lend us their vines.

Maintenance expenses covered by the Foundation.

A contract for a technician is proposed to be in charge of all vines were subjected to the same agricultural practices (phytosanitary treatments, pruning, ...)

Their participation should not entail any expenses for them.

They are crazy!!
A woman giving us viticulture lessons!!
What were the main project results?

Complete characterization (ampelographic, molecular and agronomic) of the varieties under study.

The most appropriate vine growing areas were determined. Not all locations are suitable.

The synonym Agudelo = Chenin Blanc was proved.

The variety Branco Lexítimo, a traditional variety grown in Northwest Spain, was confirmed as a synonym of Albarín Blanco.

The most suitable variety for high quality winemaking in this area is Branco Lexítimo.

Both varieties were introduced in the Spanish Official List of Vine Varieties with Commercial Interest.
What was innovative in the project? What innovation did the project bring?

- A Multi-Actor-Project:
  Central and local gouverments-associations-vinegrowers...funded by a Private Foundation
- Direct communication and interrelation between researchers-farmers-institutions
- The results were the base for the inclusion of Branco Lexítimo and Agudelo in the Spanish Official List of Vine Varieties with Commercial Interest (B.O.E. 71, 24th March 2011)
- Vinegrowers from this area can now legalize their vineyards and commercialize the wines putting the name of the varieties in the labels of bottles
- They have also learnt new techniques for crop management in order to increase wine quality
- They are now conscious of the quality and exclusiveness of their wines and the consumers have now a good impression of these wines
- New wineries have been established in this area producing Branco Lexítimo wines
- A quality mark for these wines and a touristic route linked to the Biosphere Reserve will be implemented in the near future
Funding Sources?

Funded by “JUANA DE VEGA FOUNDATION”
(4 Projects-4 Years: 2007-2011)

Viticulture Group (CSIC)
55895,64 €

EVEGA (Xunta de Galicia)

TOTAL BUDGET: 140.000 €

Vinegrowers 10€/vine

Contract Technician

CSIC and EVEGA: Provided Human and Technical Resources (High qualified researchers and technicians)
What were the main success factors and the main bottlenecks in the project?
What are the main learning points?

Good relation between research groups and Juana de Vega Foundation.

Good relation among the research group.

To be keen on the work proposed and to know how to get this message through to all the actors involved

To make good use of our experience and of all the contacts made by our research group over the last years

Farmers did not believe in research

Disputes between vinegrowers about being in or out of the project. Third parties trying to disturb

Some actors did not show understanding of the time needed for research

Some growers lend us the vines located in the worst locations within the vineyard

ALL PROBLEMS COULD BE SOLVED WITH EMOTIONAL INTELIGENCE !!!
Recommendations for future OG?

Not everybody is able to develop this kind of projects. Previous Rural contact is welcome.

Experience, background and great knowledge should be demanded to the research group.

To win the confidence of the funding agency

Inspire confidence in the vinegrowers, making them a part of the project, giving support, trying to solve any question or doubt they may have.

The dissemination of the results is very important: TV, press, radio, workshops, conferences.....
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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