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## **1 Introduction**

The purpose of this document is to describe the selection process of characteristic olive farms of the areas of Arta and Preveza on which the cultivating practices distinguished as best practices will be applied. These best practices were selected after survey (using questionnaires) regarding the cultivating techniques that the local olive growers apply and the statistical analysis of the results in combination with the available information from the relevant bibliography (3.1.1. Ex-ante analysis of olive growing best practices).

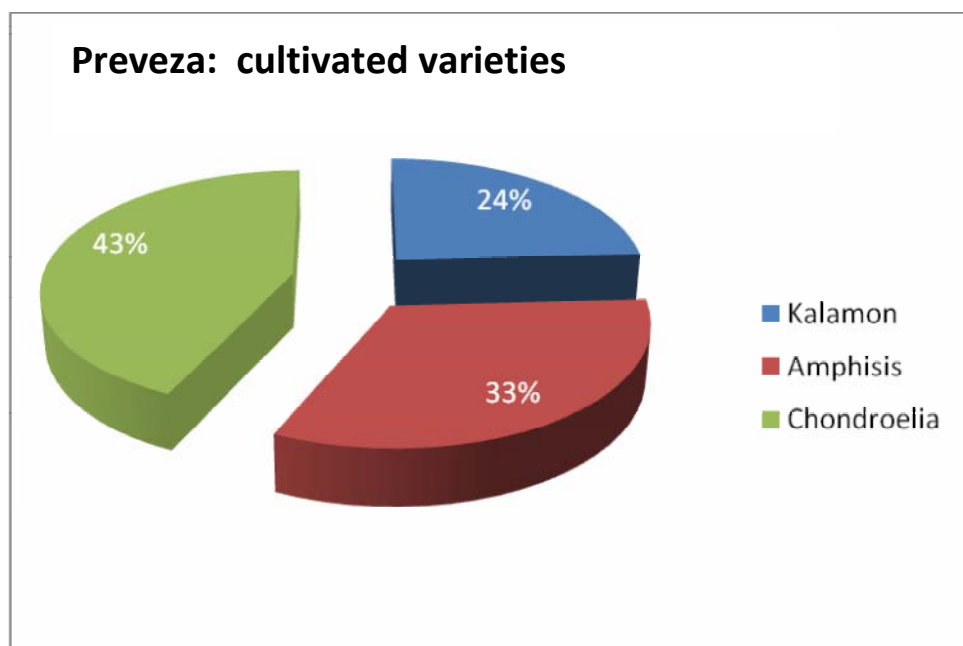
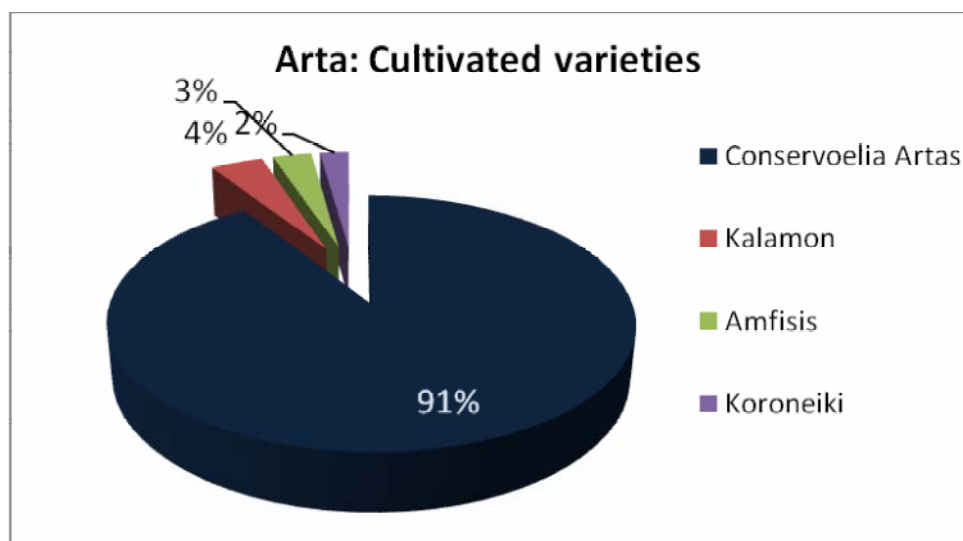
## **2 Selection of trial olive farms**

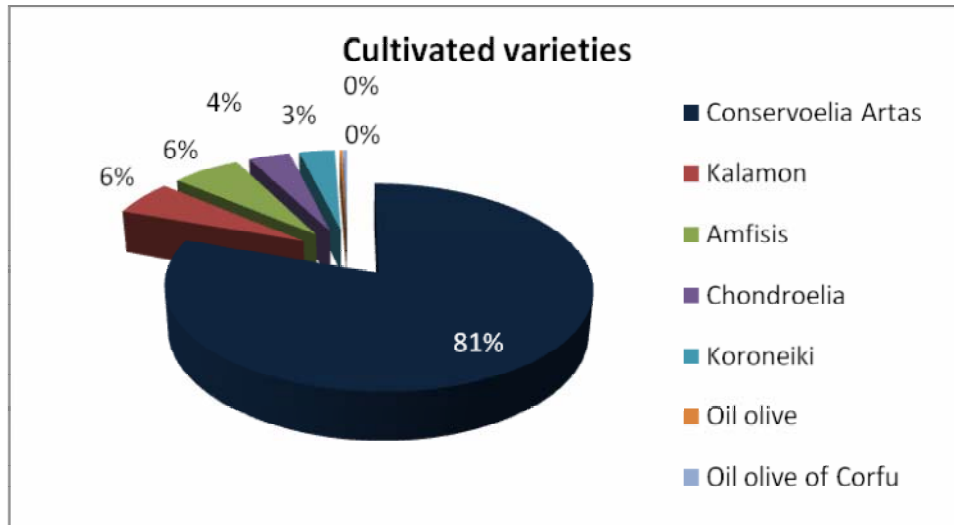
### **Criteria for farm selection**

The criteria that have to be taken into consideration before choosing the trial olive groves as well as the number of the trial olive groves on which the particular cultivating techniques will be applied were discussed during the session with the participation of the members of the team (3.1.1.) and the scientific coordinator. For this choice of the specific criteria what was decided to be taken into consideration was the data from the fields and the olive as they were recorded in the questionnaires, exploitation, and the results of the data analysis. There was a further discussion later on, so as the necessary time for the study and the process of the data to be given.

During a new session between the scientific coordinator and the members of the team (3.1.1.) for financial and practical reasons the study was decided to be limited to only two olive groves. Afterwards, the criteria which led to our final choice were discussed (Table 1).

The scientific coordinator of the project presented data as they were retrieved from a new processing and analysis of data concerning olive cultivation in the district of Arta and Preveza. In these areas there is mainly cultivated the table olives. More specifically, in Arta the variety which is cultivated is that of the Protected Geographical Indication (P.G.I.) called “Conservoelia Artas” (91% per cent). 88 per cent of olive groves, where this variety is cultivated, are xeric (not irrigated ). There is a small percentage of other varieties such as Kalamon (4%) and Amfisis (3%). In Preveza, in the specific areas that were chosen, the prevailing olive varieties that are cultivated are that of Amfisis (33%) and Kalamon (19%).





After considering the data it was firstly proposed to choose olive groves where table olive varieties are cultivated. Since most of the olive groves of the area are dry, all the olive groves that have irrigation system were rejected. In the fields that will chosen there should be used a system of integrated administration, so as to have a production of better quality and at the same time of lower cost. Another criterion in our choice was the density of the fields. Olive groves with density of 17 or 20 olive trees were chosen. The olive trees in the groves should be at a full productive age; in other words, approximately 10 years of age. Also, the olive groves that were chosen was necessary to be viable so as to apply certain cultivating practices on them. Another criterion was the age of the olive grower, who should be younger than 65 years old (pensioners were excluded ). A final criterion was the average production per tree; olive trees with an average production lower than 20 kg per tree were also rejected.

It is important the olive groves to be representative of the whole area which is included in the study, therefore, one olive grove from Arta and another one from Preveza were finally chosen. As far as the area of Arta is concerned, the olive grove should include the cultivation of the table olive variety called Conservoelia Artas which has a Protected Geographical Indication and its cultivation is of financial importance for our area. As for the area of Preveza, the variety of Kalamon was proposed. This variety is cultivated in both sampling areas and it is a traditionally exported product, globally steadily ranked in the first position of edible olives. The Kalamon variety is cultivated in both irrigated and dry olive groves

in the area. Due high yearly precipitation of the area, the selection of a xeric (not irrigated) olive grove was proposed. In Table 1, the criteria used for the selection of trial olive groves are presented.

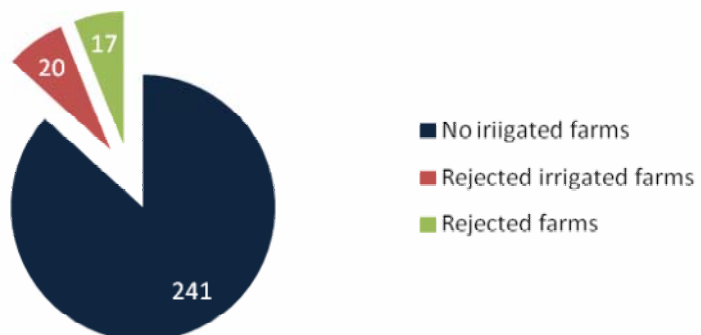
**Table 1: Criteria for the selection of the olive grove**

Serial number/criterion	Description
<b>1</b>	Variety
<b>2</b>	Probable irrigation
<b>3</b>	Cultivation practice
<b>4</b>	Density of trees
<b>5</b>	Age of the olive groves
<b>6</b>	Viability of the olive groves
<b>7</b>	Age of the olive growers
<b>8</b>	Range of the olive groves
<b>9</b>	Average production per tree
<b>10</b>	Area of cultivation
<b>11</b>	<b>Variety</b> (Preveza – Kalamon, Arta – Conservoelia)

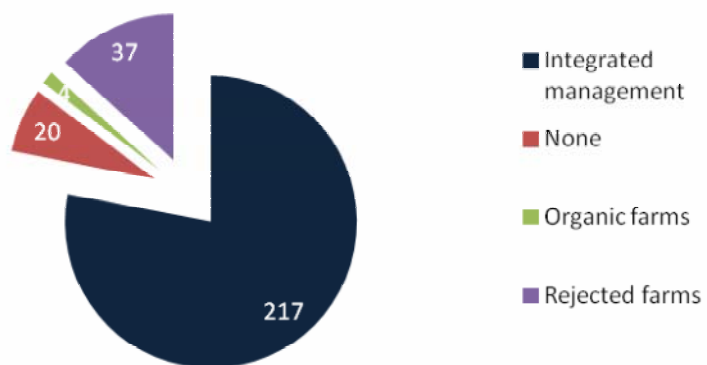
### **Selection of olive groves based of the chosen criteria**

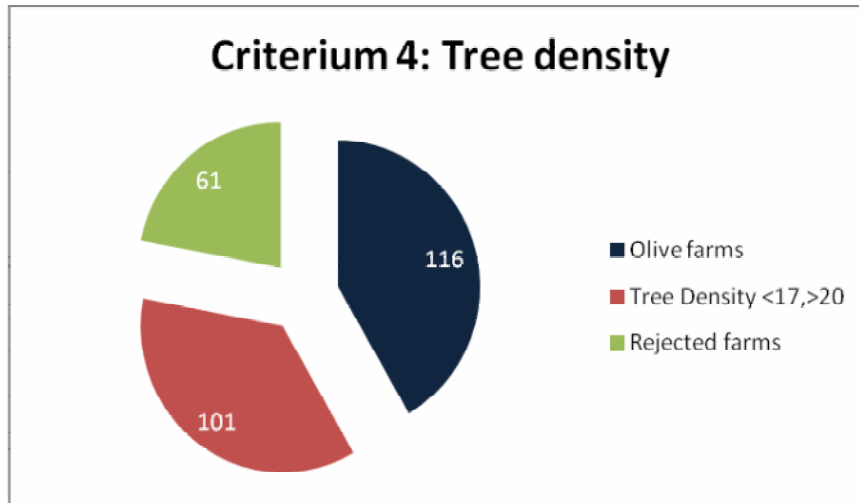
From a total of 278 olive groves, 80 producers were rejected based on the first criterion, 17 olive groves were excluded because there was cultivated a variety of olive which is used in the olive oil production, 20 olive groves were rejected based on the second criterion, as far as the probable irrigation was concerned. From the remaining 241 olive groves, 20 of them were turned down because a quality system wasn't applied and 4 olive groves used organic agriculture. Because of the density of the trees 101 olive groves were rejected.

### Criterion 2: Irrigation

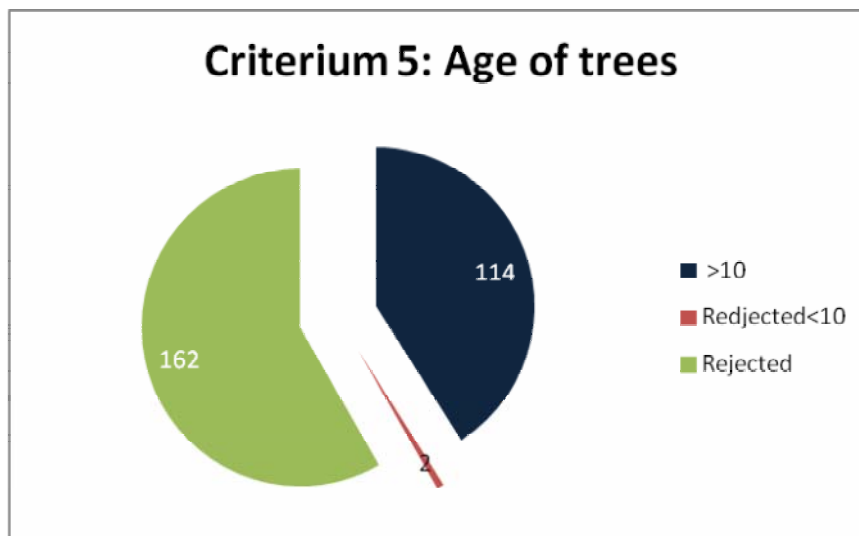


### Criterion 3: Quality system

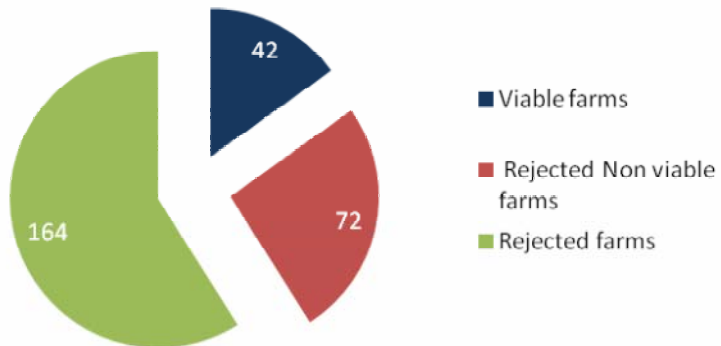




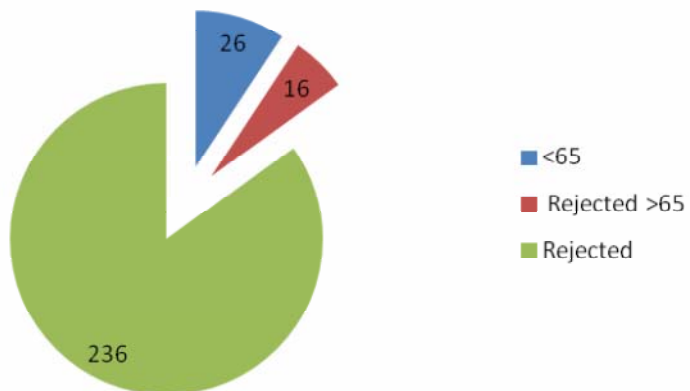
Two olive groves were also excluded because their olive trees were younger than 10 years of age. From the rest of the olive groves, 42 were characterized as viable based on the analysis. 26 of the growers that owned these olive groves were younger than 65 years of age. 18 of the previously mentioned olive groves were larger than 0.6 hectares, which was the lowest limit for an olive grove to be chosen.



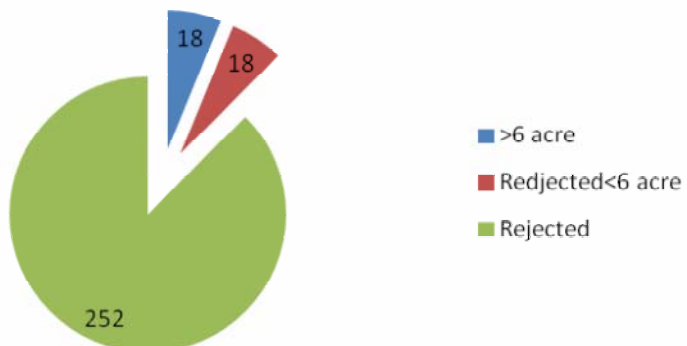
### Criterion 6: Viability of farms



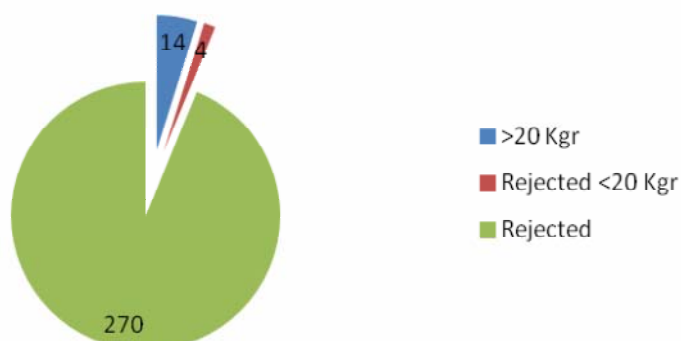
### Criterion 7: Age of farmers



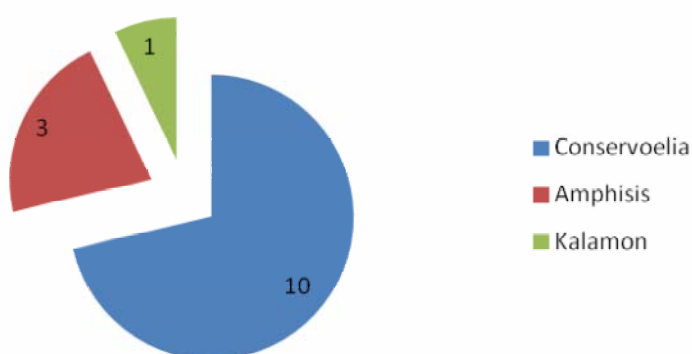
### Criterion 8: Area of field



### Criterion 9: Productivity per tree



### Criterion 10: Variety



13 out of the 14 olive groves exist the area of Arta and only on the area of Preveza. From the 13 olive groves that belong to the area of Arta, 3 of them were rejected because the variety Amphis was cultivated.

### The selection of a trial olive farm at Preveza

The olive grove that was chosen in Preveza met the determined criteria (Table 1, Criterion 11). For the final choice, the scientific coordinator of the project contacted the grower who was the interested in cooperating with us. After our visiting the olive grove, the grower with us in the framework of the project and therefore apply the cultivating practice we proposed.

### **The selection of the trial olive farm at Arta**

As for Arta, 10 olive groves met the criteria as they were determined (Table 1). At first, there was a meeting with the 9 growers who owned the 10 olive groves so as to realize if they are willing to cooperate with us. During the meeting, all of them expressed their interest in the project. For the final choice of the trial olive grove we had to visit all the candidate groves.

## **3 Brief presentation of the selected trial olive farms**

According to the criteria as they were previously determined, we chose an olive grove in Preveza where the variety Kalamon is cultivated, and another one in Arta where the table olive Conservoelia Artas with protected geographical indication is cultivated respectively.

### **Trial olive farm at Preveza**

The trial olive grove which was chosen in Preveza there is in Louros, more specifically Prasies. The olive grove extends at 1 hectare, it belongs to a family and the olive trees are Kalamon, aged 50. The olive grove is dry, flat and at an altitude of 17metres above the sea level. The density of the trees is 1.7 trees per hectare. There has not been conducted a ground analysis yet. In the olive grove there is a biennial bearing and the average production comes up to 24kg of olives per tree. The production of olive oil is 10% and the free acidity of the produced olive oil, ranges from 0 to 0.1.

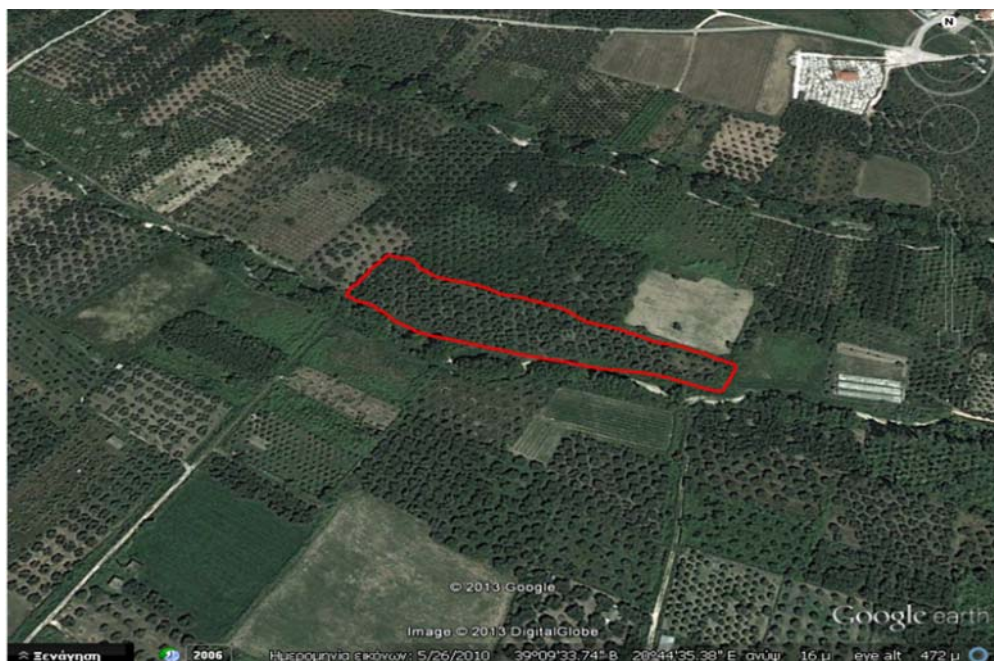


Figure 1: Position of the trial olive farm at the area of Louros, in Preveza (Google Earth)



Figure 2: View of the trial olive grove in the area of Louros, in Preveza

### Trial olive farm at Arta

The selected grower in the area of Arta, Peta, owned 2 of the chosen olive groves. After visiting both of them, an olive grove in the area of Prohomata of 0.6 hectares (Fig. 4) was chosen; also a family one. The olive trees of the variety Conservoelia Artas were 60 years old. The olive grove was dry, of 10% gradient and at an altitude of 100m above sea level. The density of the trees is 2.0 trees per hectare. In the olive grove there has already been a ground analysis. The average production comes up to 75kg of olives per tree. The oil production is 16.6% and the free acidity of the olive oil ranges from 0.1 to 1.



**Figure 3:** Position of the trial olive farm at the area of Peta, in Arta (Google Earth)



Figure 4: View of the trial olive farm in the area of Peta, in Arta.