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Spain, high-quality products and the organic bread basket of Europe

Whereas Europe leads the way in the transition towards an organic food and agricultural sector, Spain has become the continent's main bread basket. It is the European country with the largest surface area devoted to organic farming, with 1,610,129 Ha (2013). The figure has doubled over the last ten years. Our country offers the best variety of primary organic products, in particular those derived from typically Mediterranean crops - that is vines, olives and cereals-, but we also have significant livestock production areas, and also stand out for certain powerful food and agricultural clusters. In short, we are talking about a huge exporting capacity for bulk products, but also of a safe option for all kinds of manufactured organic foodstuffs with a high added value.

Spain is an open market, with a highly-developed productive structure and a large capacity for expansion onto the international markets, since the timid growth of internal consumption enables us to commit strongly to exports. In 2013, the increase in exports was significant, and confirms the fact that we have an increasingly professionalised, entrepreneurialized sector. These factors allow for an increase in productivity, greater production at source and better commercialisation prices. According to the study 'Characterisation of the Spanish



organic production sector in volume and value' (Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Environment, 2014), Spain continues along a path towards a horizon of growth and it is estimated that, in ten years, we will reach 2 million hectares, 45,000 producers, 4,500 industries and 1 billion Euros devoted to exportation.

Spanish organic products offer quality and reliability, not

least because of their certification structure. Most autonomous communities, which act as competent authorities in organic production, are equipped with public control and certification authorities that guarantee consumers that the methods used to obtain our organic products are in line with regulations, ensuring a bonus of transparency and objectivity, as well as reliability in terms of inspection and analysis, and a warranty of traceability and quality in the product.

This publication is designed to highlight some of the leading companies in the Spanish organic sector, a reflection of the entrepreneurial dynamism of Spanish food and agriculture and of its decisive commitment to healthy foodstuffs that are respectful of the environment.

