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Sancorganic drives innovation in the Spanish field by integrating drones and organic production to enhance pollination.

The use of new technologies in agriculture continues to gain ground in Spain, especially in expanding crops like pistachios. The need to improve productive efficiency and ensure crop stability has led to the launch of initiatives that combine innovation and agronomic management. In this advancement lies Sancorganic, which has initiated a program, in collaboration with Agroptimum, aimed at strengthening pollination through the use of drones within a certified organic production model. The proposal integrates various agricultural practices with the goal of optimizing crop yield without compromising sustainability.

Drone technology at Sancorganic to enhance pistachio pollination

The incorporation of drones in pistachio cultivation is presented as a supportive tool during a critical phase of production development. After conducting several pilot experiences, Sancorganic is already using this technology to release pollen in a controlled manner during the flowering period, allowing for improved distribution in large plantations. The intervention is tailored to specific moments in the crop cycle to increase the chances of fertilization.

The pistachio pollination system requires proper planning of the plantation. The farms have approximately 8% male trees, although in the case of Sancorganic, this figure rises to 11% to promote the fertilization of female specimens. The application of drones adds to this agronomic foundation, providing precision in pollen dispersion and reinforcing the process under specific conditions.

The development of this technology is part of a broader strategy aimed at improving crop management. Field experience allows for adjustments to each intervention and adapts drone use to the actual needs of the plantation. Sancorganic continues to advance in the incorporation of technical solutions that facilitate greater efficiency in agricultural management.

Ecological management of the crop and soil to enhance pollination

Improving pollination depends not only on technology but also on the overall condition of the crop. The production model relies on agronomic management that begins with winter pruning, a practice that helps maintain tree balance and prepare for the next season. Following this intervention, copper is applied via spraying to protect the branches and preserve their health.

Additionally, soil work is carried out through the use of organic fertilizer, aimed at improving its structure and ensuring balanced nutrition. These efforts, combined with the positive impact of the flock of over 700 sheep grazing on the plantation land, create a fertile base that supports root system development and contributes to more stable tree growth. This balance within Sancorganic directly influences the quality of flowering and the crop's ability to complete the pollination process more effectively.

Certified organic production is part of the system applied at all stages of cultivation. Kerman variety trees grafted onto UCB1 rootstocks are used, with planting frameworks adapted to the characteristics of each farm. Technical planning optimizes resources and maintains precise control over the crop's development.

Well-nourished soil and balanced trees promote the growth of higher quality flowers, which increases the activity of natural pollinators and improves the results of assisted pollination. The combination of agronomic management and technology allows for progress towards a more efficient production model that aligns with market demands.

The approach taken by Sancorganic strengthens the plantation, maintains ecosystem balance through the use of organic inputs, and improves yield per hectare through technical crop management. The integration of these practices within a single model contributes to consolidating an agricultural system focused on quality, productive stability, and long-term sustainability.

Source: <https://sancorganic.com/produccion-procesado>

About Sancorganic

Sancorganic is an agro-industrial producer of organic pistachios that combines scale, integration, and technical excellence. The company has a long-term business and industrial plan aimed at becoming the leader in the premium organic pistachio industry and integrating the entire value chain of this product. Sancorganic developed its first plantation in Cebreros (Ávila) and has created one of the largest organic pistachio plantations in Europe in Valdetorres de Jarama (Madrid), covering an area of 500 hectares that will accommodate up to 200,000 pistachio trees. This locality also houses its processing plant, which will integrate all activities of the pistachio production process: from tree to final product. Sancorganic's goal is to produce organic pistachios of the highest quality, leading production in Spain and Europe. Sancorganic is a company belonging to the Sancor Capital group.