

## ORGANIC AVOCADO IN ANDALUCIA. TECHNICAL, SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

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Organic management in agriculture implies the protection of the environment and, consequently, a restricted use of fertilizers and pesticides and the adoption of new growing systems.

Keeping the rural space alive is, by far, the most important issue to be considered to develop an environmentally friendly and productive agriculture.

Focusing on organically grown avocado in Andalusia, we will discuss the following three different aspects: social and environmental issues, and crop management.

Regarding the social implications, the increase of both job opportunities and profitability of small and medium sized farms will be stressed.

Regarding the environment, the two basic differences between organic and conventional avocado production are the elimination of pollution caused by chemicals such as nitrates or herbicides and the protection of indigenous flora and fauna, with an increase in biodiversity.

We will focus on cultural practices such as the management of vegetal soil covers and nitrogen, potassium, iron, zinc, or boron requirements. These issues will be studied in relation to what is established by European Regulation 2092/91 and its modifications.