

ANALYSIS OF INNOVATING FACTORS TO INCREASE THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY OF AVOCADO ORCHARDS ON THE SPANISH MEDITERRANEAN COAST

A-118

S. Sayadi¹, J. Calatrava Requena¹ y E. Guirado Sánchez²

¹ Depto. Economía Agraria. CIFA. Apdo. 2027. 18080 Granada. Spain. E. Mail: ssayadi@arrakis.es

² Estación Experimental "La Mayora". 29750 Algarrobo Costa. Málaga. Spain.

The expansion of avocado in the southern Mediterranean spanish coast starts in the 1970s. Currently, avocado is the most important tropical crop in extension with 7358 Has and an average annual production close to 50000 mt.

Several technological innovations in avocado production have been incorporated during the last few years and some of them increase the environmental sustainability of this crop. Among the practices with a positive impact on environment we can mention, among others, the following: different techniques of no tillage or of conservation tillage with no or reduced pesticide use, prebloom pruning, brusher use, mulching as well as organic and integrated production systems.

The INIA project SC99-061 deals, among its different objectives, with the analysis of the factors that determine the incorporation of cultural practices that increase environmental sustainability of different agricultural systems, and among them, tropical fruit production.

In this work, in the frame of the results of the project mentioned above, we describe the results of polls made to avocado producers located in the Southeastern coast of the Iberian Peninsula, e.g. the provinces of Granada and Málaga, to analyze their situation regarding the adoption of technical innovations to benefit the environment. The factors that induce the adoption of those innovations in avocado are discussed in relation to the characteristics and attitudes of the producer and of the orchard. For that, an aggregated index of innovations has been used and, since this is a discrete variable, an ordered multinomial Probit model has been applied to identify the factors and analyze their influence. Finally, some conclusions that will allow the design of future strategies to promote the adoption of positive innovations for the environment in the Spanish tropical coast are offered.