

Examples of PDO products from Spain: are production rules relevant for HNV?

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Introduction

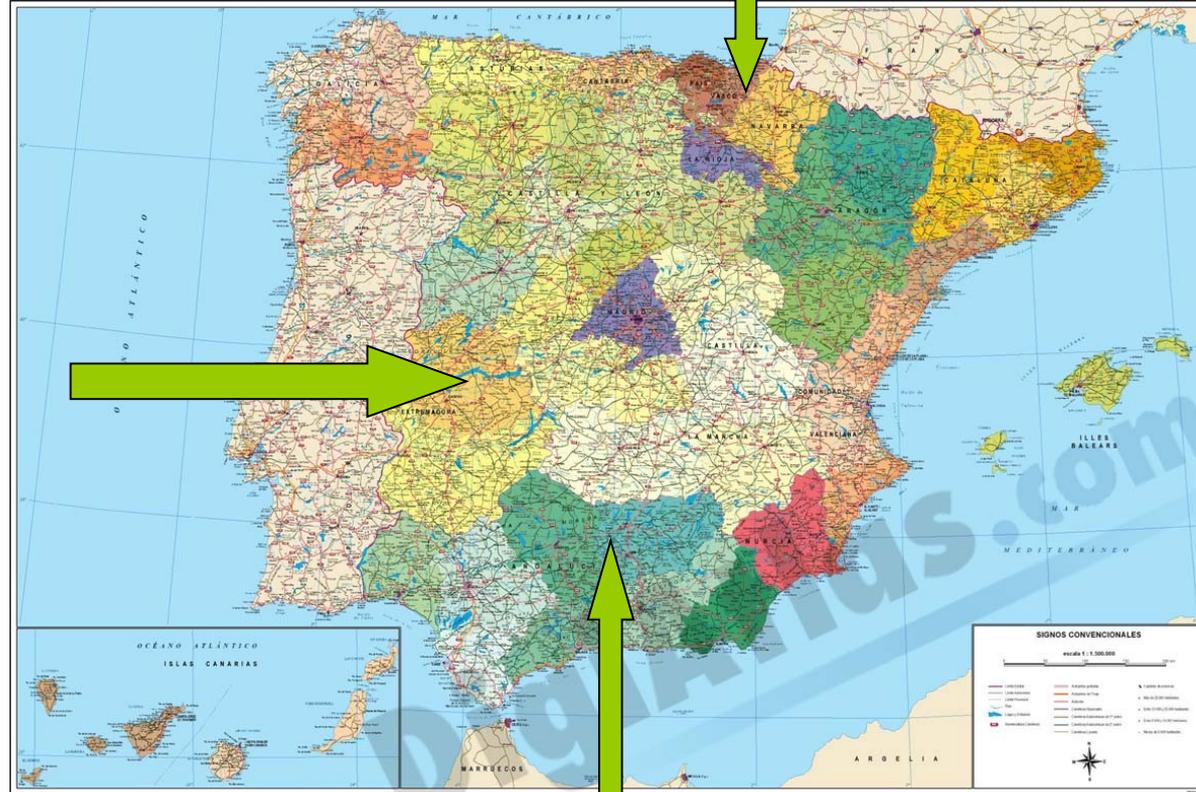
- Look at 5 examples of PDO products:
 - Olive oil (2 examples)
 - Iberian ham (1 example)
 - Sheep and goat cheese (2 examples)
- When are these farm systems HNV, and when are they not?
- What are the PDO rules in terms of farm practices?
- Do they help to maintain nature values and environmental quality?

Examples of PDO products

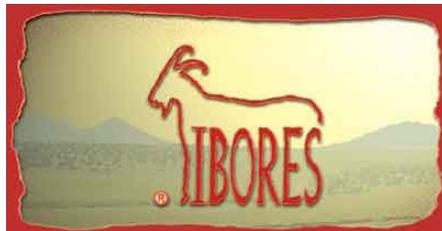


GATA-HURDES
Olive oil

IDIAZABAL
Sheep cheese



DEHESA EXTREMADURA
Iberian ham



IBORES
Goat cheese

SIERRA SEGURA
Olive oil



Olives

- Examples studied:
 - Sierra Segura (Andalucía)
 - Gata y Hurdes (Extremadura)
- Both are upland areas with largely “traditional” olive groves.
- But farming practices vary considerably from the most traditional, low-intensity systems, to the more intensive.



What determines the nature value of an olive grove?

1) Structural diversity of elements:

- Trees (age, size)
- Grass layer (permanent, temporary, absent)
- Stone walls (additional habitat for reptiles)
- Other vegetation (on and off the farm)

2) How these elements are managed:

- ❑ Pest control - Intensive? Integrated? Bio?
- ❑ Weed control - Herbicides? Tillage? Grazing?
- ❑ Walls - Maintained? Cleared?
- ❑ Other vegetation - Burned? Grazed? Cleared?
- ❑ Irrigation?

**High structural diversity,
high presence of semi-natural
vegetation**



**No structural diversity, no
semi-natural vegetation**



Seasonal grass



No grass layer, herbicides





PDO production rules

- ❑ “Cultivation practices will be the traditional ones that tend to produce the best quality olive oil”
- ❑ More specific conditions are about harvesting, quality of fruit, transport of fruit, etc.
- ❑ No reference to:
 - ❑ Pest control methods
 - ❑ Use of herbicides
 - ❑ Maintaining walls and terraces
 - ❑ Soil conservation

Iberian ham

“Dehesa de Extremadura”

- ❑ Extensive pig grazing is a traditional use of the dehesa (wooded pasture).
- ❑ The pigs forage for acorns in Autumn-Winter and graze during Spring.
- ❑ Usually combined with sheep and/or cattle.



What determines the nature value of a pig dehesa?

1) Structural diversity of elements:

- ❑ Trees (age, size, density)
- ❑ Semi-natural vegetation (grass, scrub)
- ❑ Streams, ponds
- ❑ Stone walls (additional habitat for reptiles)

2) How these elements are managed:

- ❑ Grazing pressure – timing, animal types, density?
- ❑ Tree regeneration – natural, planting, none?
- ❑ Livestock pressure on ponds and streams?
- ❑ Fertilisation of pastures, manure disposal?
- ❑ Walls - Maintained? Cleared?









PDO production rules

- ❑ Must be from the breed “cerdo ibérico” (>50%)
- ❑ For ham labelled “acorn fed” (*de bellota*):
 - Pigs must feed only acorns in period before slaughter.
 - Minimum period is 60 days.
 - Must put on minimum 46 kg weight.
 - Inspectors check that stocking density is within carrying capacity of the dehesa (acorn production).

PDO production rules

- For ham labelled “de cebo” (cereals and concentrates):
 - Maximum stocking density 10 pigs/ha.
 - Minimum distance between feeding and watering points.

PDO production rules

- ❑ Extensive foraging for *part* of the year, for “acorn-fed” ham, not for “cebo”.
- ❑ Some reference to stocking densities.
- ❑ No reference to tree regeneration.
- ❑ No reference to conservation of other semi-natural elements, stone walls, etc.

Sheep and goat cheese

- Examples studied:
 - Los Ibores (goats, Extremadura)
 - Idiazábal (sheep, Basque Country and Navarra)
- Traditionally these were extensive grazing systems with local transhumance to seasonal pastures.
- Tendency in sheep and goat dairy systems is for animals to spend more time indoors using purchased feeds.





PDO production rules

- Animals must be specific native breeds.
- “feeding will follow traditional practices, with direct exploitation of the grazing in the production area”
- No reference to:
 - Grazing regimes, density
 - Number of days grazing
 - Local transhumance

Conclusions

- ❑ Several PDO examples studied.
- ❑ In terms of farming practices, production rules are very vague.
- ❑ Products carrying PDO label can be from farms with very different practices and environmental conditions.
- ❑ These labels are concerned with product quality but *not* with *environmental quality*.