



TRAINING COURSE IN CRETE

**Co-organized by the Technical University of Crete,
and the Agricultural Cooperative of Polemarchi**

in the framework of

LIFE ENVIRONMENT PROJECT “ECOIL”

***“LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT FOR THE ECO PRODUCTION OF
OLIVE OIL”***

The training course in Crete Greece was initially arranged to be carried out in two regions, West (Chania) and East Crete (Sitia). The West Crete seminar was combined with the project Conference. The East Crete seminar was postponed for later than the date of submission of the final report due to administrative reasons. Training sessions were co-organized by the Technical University of Crete (TUC) and Agricultural Cooperative of Polemarchi (AGRIPOL) in Polemarchi, in the region of Voukolies, and in the premises of AGRIPOL. Local people were informed for the course through posters placed in the area and by the AGRIPOL personnel.

The ECOIL Conference that took place in Chania on 30 October 2006, was planned to raise the interest and discussions around the eco production tools and produce suggestions for guiding eco-production stakeholders, but also to provide training to olive oil producers in the region on relevant issues. This was scheduled for the last part of the Conference with a fully dedicated session on guidelines in Greek. The poster created to inform the public about the Conference combined with the training course is presented in Fig.1. The training could not be successfully completed in the time available, since the number of olive oil producers invited from the region, was not high enough when presentation of the guidelines and training material was realised. In addition, the olive oil producers showed a preference for a more efficient communication of project results through small group training courses and discussions than large scale training courses with many participants.

It was thus decided, following also the suggestion by Dr. Marouli representing the ECOIL monitoring team, to ask for the particular requests of producers, in order to set up more efficient training courses in small groups tailored to the needs of the regional olive oil production.



This decision was in line with the agreed proposal to create in Polemarchi region a focal point for consultation of producers on eco production techniques and developments. This was one of the most promising proposal for organizing an “Environmental Center” in Polemarchi and Voukolies region, through which all the cycle of olive oil production would be informed and updated. The Agricultural Cooperative of Polemarchi (AGRIPOL) proposed to host, accommodate and operate in a pilot phase such a center in its premises. This action is included in the After-LIFE communication plan of the ECOIL project (chapter 9 of the technical report).



Figure 1: Information poster about the ECOIL Conference and the training course

A number of small group (4-7 local producers) training courses were conducted in the dedicated room of the future “Environmental Center” in the premises of AGRIPOL, headed and coordinated by the TUC personnel and Mr. Stefanoudakis (vice president of AGRIPOL) during the last two months of 2006. This pilot training will continue in the After – LIFE communication plan and will cover trainees from a wider area, beyond the initial target group of producers from the region of Polemarchi. This training and dissemination approach aims at establishing further and continuous training and providing information in the framework of developing the operation of the “Environmental Center”. Further training has been already planned for 16th of March with invited speaker Dr. I. Metzidakis (Institute of Olive Tree and Subtropical Plants of Chania), an internationally acknowledged researcher and experienced



trainer on total management and eco management of olives and oil production. During the courses the ECOIL guidelines were distributed and discussed. Further training and informative material is constantly available in the “AGRIPOL Environmental Center” and will be frequently updated by TUC. The room dedicated to the center by AGRIPOL is located in the same building of oil mill owned by the Cooperative. The whole mill, production stages, units and systems are recently renewed and the building has been completely renovated.

Training material in the form of hand outs in Greek are included in deliverables 11 and 12.

A list of actions was agreed and is given in the After-LIFE communication plan presented at the technical final report.

The following pictures show the new installed equipment in the olive oil mill of AGRIPOL in Polemarchi. The operation of the new mill requires less energy and water consumption and produces less wastes and pollutants to the environment. In the premises of AGRIPOL there is a large room designed to accommodate the operational needs of training of small groups, and the functions of the “Environmental Center”. A demonstration of how the training courses are held is also presented in the following pictures.









