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# WINOVATE

Non-Alcoholic Wine as a vehicle of Innovation  
and Value for Agri-food Training and Education

ERASMUS+ / 2023-1-HU01-KA210-VET-000151814

## MICRO MOOCS

### 2nd MICRO MOOC

Sustainable Agriculture  
Practices for Non-Alcoholic  
Wine Production



# Introduction to Sustainable Agriculture



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- **Definition and principles of sustainable agriculture.**

Sustainable agriculture is a method of farming that focuses on producing food in a way that preserves the environment, supports fair labor practices, and maintains economic viability. Its principles include reducing chemical inputs, promoting biodiversity, and using resources efficiently to ensure long-term agricultural productivity.

- **Importance of sustainability in the wine industry.**

Sustainability in the wine industry is crucial for preserving the natural resources that are essential for grape cultivation, such as soil and water. It also helps in maintaining the ecological balance and reducing the carbon footprint, thereby ensuring the industry's longevity and resilience against climate change.

- **Overview of Sustainable Practices in Greek Vineyards**

Greek vineyards are increasingly adopting sustainable practices such as organic farming, water conservation techniques, and the use of renewable energy sources. These practices not only improve the quality of the grapes but also enhance the vineyard's environmental stewardship and contribute to the overall health of the ecosystem.

- **Interactive Element:**

(Sustainability guide for winemakers)

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350145680\\_An\\_Overview\\_on\\_Sustainability\\_in\\_the\\_Wine\\_Production\\_Chain](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/350145680_An_Overview_on_Sustainability_in_the_Wine_Production_Chain)



# Sustainable Soil Management



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- **Techniques for maintaining healthy soil.**

Maintaining healthy soil involves techniques such as crop rotation, cover cropping, and reduced tillage to preserve soil structure and fertility. These methods enhance soil organic matter, improve water retention, and support beneficial soil microorganisms, promoting long-term agricultural productivity.

- **Benefits of organic fertilizers and composting.**

Organic fertilizers and composting enrich the soil with essential nutrients, improve soil structure, and increase its ability to retain water. They also promote microbial activity and reduce the need for chemical inputs, leading to healthier crops and a more sustainable farming system.

- **Examples of soil management practices in Greek vineyards.**

Greek vineyards often use cover crops and organic mulches to protect and enrich the soil, while also preventing erosion. Additionally, they practice minimal tillage and integrate organic fertilization to maintain soil health and promote sustainable viticulture.

- **Interactive Element:**

Diagram showing different soil management techniques.

<https://winesofgreece.org/regions-wineries/>



# Water Conservation Strategies



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- **Importance of water conservation in viticulture**

Water conservation in viticulture is crucial for sustaining grape production, particularly in regions prone to drought or with limited water resources. Effective water management ensures the health and yield of grapevines while minimizing the environmental impact and preserving water supplies for future use.

- **Efficient irrigation methods (e.g. drip irrigation).**

Efficient irrigation methods, such as drip irrigation, deliver water directly to the roots of the grapevines, reducing water wastage and promoting optimal plant growth. These systems allow for precise control of water application, enhancing water use efficiency and reducing the risk of soil erosion and nutrient leaching.

- **Case study of water conservation in a Greek vineyard.**

A Greek vineyard implemented a comprehensive water conservation strategy that included the use of drip irrigation, rainwater harvesting, and soil moisture monitoring. This approach not only reduced water usage by 30% but also improved the quality of the grapes and supported the vineyard's sustainability goals.

- **Interactive Element:**

Map showing regions in Greece with efficient water usage.

[https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-map-of-Greece-with-river-basin-districts\\_fig1\\_371487310](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-map-of-Greece-with-river-basin-districts_fig1_371487310)



# Sustainable Pest and Disease Management



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- **Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies.**

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies involve a combination of techniques such as crop rotation, habitat manipulation, and the use of resistant grape varieties to minimize pest populations. IPM aims to reduce reliance on chemical pesticides, promoting a healthier vineyard ecosystem and sustainable grape production.

- **Use of natural predators and biological control.**

The use of natural predators, such as ladybugs and predatory mites, along with biological control agents like beneficial fungi and bacteria, helps manage pest populations in vineyards. These methods are environmentally friendly, reduce the need for chemical pesticides, and support the overall health and biodiversity of the vineyard.

- **Success stories from Greek vineyards.**

Greek vineyards have successfully implemented sustainable practices, such as organic farming and advanced irrigation techniques, to enhance grape quality and environmental stewardship. One notable success story is a Greek winery that adopted precision viticulture, resulting in a 20% increase in yield and significant water savings, demonstrating the effectiveness of sustainable practices in viticulture.

- **Interactive Element:**

Integrated Pest Management Tools: Resources to Support IPM Implementation

<https://www.epa.gov/ipm/integrated-pest-management-tools-resources-support-ipm-implementation>



# Enhancing Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health



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- **Role of biodiversity in sustainable agriculture.**

Biodiversity plays a crucial role in sustainable agriculture by enhancing ecosystem resilience, improving soil health, and supporting pollinators essential for crop production. Diverse plant and animal species contribute to pest and disease control, reducing the need for chemical inputs and promoting a balanced, healthy farming environment.

- **Practices to promote biodiversity in vineyards.**

Promoting biodiversity in vineyards involves planting cover crops, maintaining natural habitats, and using organic farming practices. These practices encourage beneficial insects, birds, and other wildlife, creating a more resilient and sustainable vineyard ecosystem.

- **Examples of Greek vineyards enhancing ecosystem health.**

Greek vineyards are enhancing ecosystem health by integrating agroforestry practices, using organic mulches, and implementing natural pest control methods. For instance, some Greek vineyards have introduced beehives to support pollination and biodiversity, demonstrating a commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable viticulture.

- **Interactive Element:**

Graph showing the benefits of increased biodiversity.

<https://ourworldindata.org/biodiversity>

