

Puglia 27/11/18

Subject: Italian olive oil harvest 2018/19

According to the early indications from the monitoring network, the olive oil production volume for the 2018/19 harvest season has been estimated to reach 265,000 tons, which is equivalent to a 38-percent decline compared to the 429,000 tons for last year.

However, specialists at the Institute forecast that a further decrease up to 45 percent may occur by the end of the operations in the Italian olive groves since weather conditions could affect yield and quality of fruits. Actually, as the harvest proceeds and enters the final phase, a further decline in volumes appears increasingly likely, and some experts say this year's production could hit a record low.

Experts point out that, in the history of Italian olive growing, negative seasons generally occurred every 15 years, while in recent times, due to the increasing frequency of anomalous climatic events, they have become more frequent.

Eager to keep the quality up, producers have begun to carry out strict monitoring of olive groves and take timely action when necessary in order to prevent diseases, ensure adequate irrigation and **pick olives at the right moment**. During the current harvest, it turns out that varieties usually left on the trees until November have been collected at the end of September. For example, Carolea and Coratina required early operations in several areas. Overall, however, from north to south, activities in the olive groves started earlier than usual.



South Italy particularly suffered from the effects of extreme weather events, starting from the **Siberian cold wave** that hit European countries at the end of winter, and posed a threat to olive trees, especially varieties whose growing season started early. In some cases, the recovery from severe frost damage to an olive tree could take years.

Italy will see a slight decline in volumes, despite the good performances of Umbria and Tuscany. In these areas, some growers reported that varieties like Frantoio suffered more from the extreme temperatures, while Moraiolo has shown a greater resistance. Regions like Abruzzo registered a better situation in the coastal strip than the inland areas, while territories such as lower Lazio region suffered from humidity, which hindered an optimal setting.

According to the newly created consortium Italia Olivicola, the reduced volumes of product registered to date have led to the loss of over one million working days, as a result of the cutting of working hours for those involved in harvesting and milling operational phases.

Concerning prices, unfortunately they immediately reacted to the expected downturn, will be certainly a complex season for Italian growers.

*source Ismea official website

Regards

Danilo Manco

Olearia Manco srl
Via Monte Rosa 9/11, 73040 Melissano (LE) Italia
Tel 0833 581945
hello@oleariamanco.it
www.oleariamanco.it
orari di apertura 8am 3.30pm