



17th sept. 2014

## 5th European Chestnut meetings

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# Success for the 5th edition of the European Chestnut Meetings in Spain.

**For three days, the province of León, has been the international focus for the European sweet chestnut sector.**

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This year, it is the province of León that, together with the AREFLH, hosted and organized the European Chestnut Meetings. 180 producers, transformers and marketers came from 10 countries and 3 continents to Ponferrada (Castilla y León) to exchange on their common problems and to share their experience.

### Conclusions

A freshening plan for the European sweet chestnut is actually in place with ambitious objectives in several European regions (Galicia, Portugal, South West of France). Such projects are essential and urgent because the chestnut grove has lost more than 50% of its potential in 40 years. Everything must be implemented to take up the challenge: new rational plantations, restoration of the old chestnut groves, etc

But this objective can only be fully achieved if the producers are given the means for effectively fighting the diseases and pests of the chestnut (cynips, endothis, canker, moth, *Curculio elephas*).

During the event a particular focus was given to the cynips (*Dryocosmus kuriphilus*), who causes havoc in Italy, in France, and who has quickly propagated in Spain and in Portugal. Against this pest, a biological method is successfully developed in Italy via the *Torymus*, its predator.

For five years, these meetings have made it possible to stimulate the exchanges between producers and operators of the European sector, and to highlight the main problems which block its development. In the meantime sharing experiences has helped to find common solutions.

In conclusion, the organizers Mesa del Castaño del Bierzo and the AREFLH (Assembly of the European Regions producing Fruit, Vegetables and Ornamental plants) are pleased with the success of this fifth edition and thanks the various collaborators and companies who supported the event.

Next year it is Portugal who will host the congress.

The presentations of the speakers are available on [www.chestnut-meetings.org](http://www.chestnut-meetings.org)

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