



Circular Economy and Sustainable solutions  
for Agrifood in the Mediterranean



PyreneesMediterranean  
SUSTAINABLE AGRI-FOOD  
INNOVATION DAY

# CHALLENGES OF THE AGRI- FOOD SECTOR OF THE BALEARIC ISLANDS

M. FRANCISCA PARETS AMENGUAL

MANAGING DIRECTOR OF FOOD COOPERATIVES OF THE BALEARIC ISLANDS



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2 JULY 2026 LA CITÉ, TOULOUS



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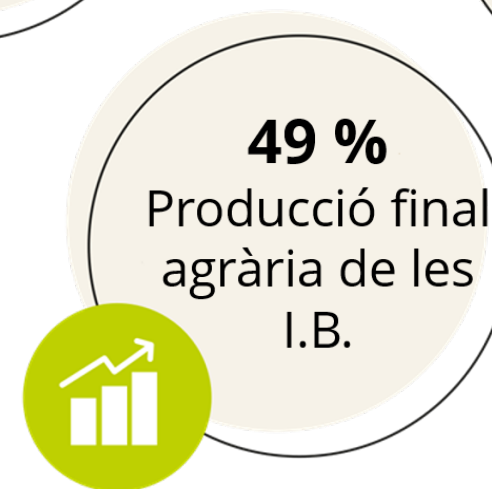


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# AGRI-FOOD COOPERATIVES OF THE BALEARIC ISLANDS: Who are we?



We are the representative  
entity/association of the agri-  
food cooperative movement of  
the Balearic Islands






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## *Key areas of our work*

 **Representation and advocacy** of the interests of members, promoting a strong and competitive cooperative sector before all organizations and institutions.

 Improving business scale and competitiveness through **inter-cooperation, innovation, and digital transformation.**

 **Communication and promotion** of the cooperative movement.

 **Providing services** to member organizations, individual members, and society as a whole.





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We are part of the national network of **Agri-Food Cooperatives of Spain.**

We are affiliated with European and international organizations representing the **social economy** and the **agri-food cooperative movement**.



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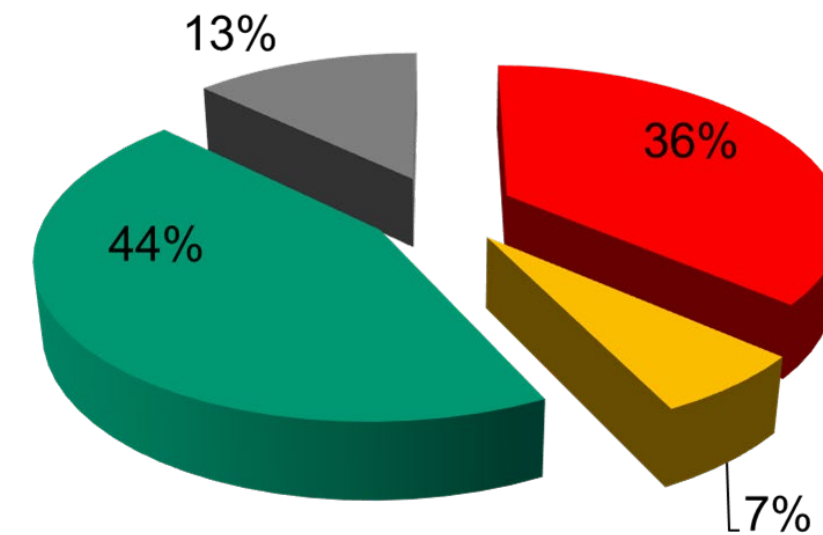
The agricultural sector manages **43%** of the islands' land area.



Palma - BCN: 240 km  
Menorca -BCN: 205 km  
Eivissa - Valencia 170 km.



- Cultivos Agrícolas 36 %
- Superficie Pastos 6 %
- Superficie forestal 44%
- Superficie no agraria 13 %



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## Additional Costs of Insularity in the Balearic Agri-Food Sector

- **Structural additional costs:** Higher production, processing, and marketing costs compared with mainland Spain.
- **Quantified impact:** The reference report estimates these additional costs at **26.39% of the total value of the Balearic agri-food sector.**
- **More expensive key inputs:** Recent data confirm significant price differentials for **animal feed (+16.9%)** and **agricultural diesel**, with additional costs of **up to 21.1%**.
- **Waste management and recovery:**
  - Insularity increases costs due to the lack of economies of scale.
  - Territorial fragmentation makes efficient waste management more difficult.





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## ***CHALLENGES faced by the Agri-Food Sector in the Balearic Islands:***

- **Economic Sustainability Challenges**

- Additional costs associated with insularity and external dependence: production, transport, energy, inputs, and services (**21% additional cost**).
- Low profitability of agricultural holdings (**estimated at 26.39% of final agricultural output**).
- Territorial fragmentation and lack of scale for infrastructure, processing, and shared services.

- **Social Sustainability Challenges**

- An aging workforce and lack of generational renewal.
- Pressure on agricultural land from competing uses, particularly urban development and tourism.

- **Environmental Sustainability Challenges**

- Climate change, drought, water scarcity, and increased environmental vulnerability.
- High costs of managing agricultural and livestock waste due to insularity and the lack of economies of scale.





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## *How the Agri-Food Sector Is Embracing Circularity*

- **Making better use of resources** throughout the entire value chain, from agricultural production to processing, distribution, and consumption.
- ➔ **Cooperativism:** By concentrating supply, industrial capacity, and demand, cooperatives enable collective projects, shared infrastructure, and economies of scale, making circular, efficient, and sustainable resource management more viable.
- **Product quality policies:** As competing on price is not feasible, the sector competes through quality, supported by **16 Protected Geographical Indication (PGI), Geographical Indication (GI), and Protected Designation of Origin (PDO)** quality labels.
- **European policies** tailored to the specific needs of island territories.





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Consejo Regulador I.G.P. SOBASSADA DE MALLORCA





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**EXPERIÈNCIES**  
enogastronòmiques

# Promotion of local products and short supply chains through cooperatives

**Promotion of local products and short supply chains:** reducing food waste and packaging waste.

**Food and wine experiences for consumers:** welcoming **19 million tourists in 2025.**

**Strategies to increase the consumption of local products** in the hospitality and tourism sectors.

**Impact:** reduces transport and emissions while strengthening the local economy.





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## Circularity in the Tourism Sector: Promoting Local Products

**Balearic Islands Tourism Sustainability and Circular Economy Law:** requires the tourism and hospitality sectors to source a minimum percentage of local products (**3%–4%–5%**, depending on the applicable requirements).

**Strategies to increase the use of local products** in the hospitality and food service sectors: promoting proximity sourcing, reducing food waste, and minimizing waste generation.

**Impact:** reduces transport and emissions while strengthening the local economy.





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## Agricultural Waste Management and Recycling

**Cooperatives are actively involved** in the use of systems such as **SIGFITO** for the collection and recycling of plant protection product containers.

**Social recognition:** In **2025**, the **Santa Eulàlia Cooperative (Ibiza)** was recognized as the organization that collected the largest volume of agricultural waste (by tonnage) in the Balearic Islands.

**Impact:** prevents pollution and returns materials to the production cycle through recycling.



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# Management and Use of Returnable and Recyclable Packaging

Use of returnable packaging systems for the distribution of fruit and vegetable products.

Use of recyclable packaging.

Impact: reduces pollution and promotes the reuse of materials.



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## Collaboration with the Tourism Sector

**Cooperation between agriculture, tourism, and waste management** through initiatives that transform organic waste into agricultural resources, such as fertilizers.

**Impact:** connects key sectors of the Balearic economy to reduce waste and strengthen local products.





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# Reuse of regenerated water for irrigation of crops

## Reduction in water consumption





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# Promotion of organic and regenerative agriculture

Expansion of organic and regenerative farming practices (reduced use of chemicals and improved soil health), alongside industrialisation and commercialisation.

In the Balearic Islands, there is a strong commitment to more environmentally friendly organic agriculture, representing 21% of the utilised agricultural area (UAA).

Impact: more natural cycles and reduced waste generation.





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# Valorisation of agricultural by-products

Development of projects to make maximum use of raw materials: sheep wool

Initiative linked to Camp Mallorquí to fully utilize carob production in industry

Transforms the carob pulp into fiber, sugar, and other products

Impact: moving from using only a small part of the product to valorising it in its entirety





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## Shared services and cooperative integration

Creation of a cooperative group:

- joint purchasing
- shared services
- joint processing and marketing



Joint production planning to avoid surpluses and waste: example of Agroeivissa and Carn&Coop.

Impact: resource optimisation and reduction of duplication (organisational circularity).





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# Digitalization:

Promoting projects through training, awareness-raising, and demonstration of new technologies applied to the agri-food sector and digitalisation.

**Quadern de Camp Digital**  
Eina C3 i plans d'abonat

**DATA**  
Dia 22 de juny de 2026  
De 10:30 a 14:30 hores

**ONLINE**

**INSCRIPCIONS**




**Requisits de les ajudes, tramitació electrònica i ús de SGApp**

**DATA**  
Dia 18 de juny de 2026  
De 10:30 a 14:30 hores

**ONLINE**

**INSCRIPCIONS**





DIHBAI-TUR



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# Digitalization: We promote and coordinate cooperation projects



G CONSELLERIA  
O MEDI AMBIENT,  
I AGRICULTURA  
B I PESCA  
FONS GARANTIA  
AGRÀRIA I PESQUERA  
ILLES BALEARS



GOBIERNO  
DE ESPAÑA  
MINISTERIO  
DE AGRICULTURA, ALIMENTACIÓN  
Y MEDIO AMBIENTE



DIHBAI-TUR



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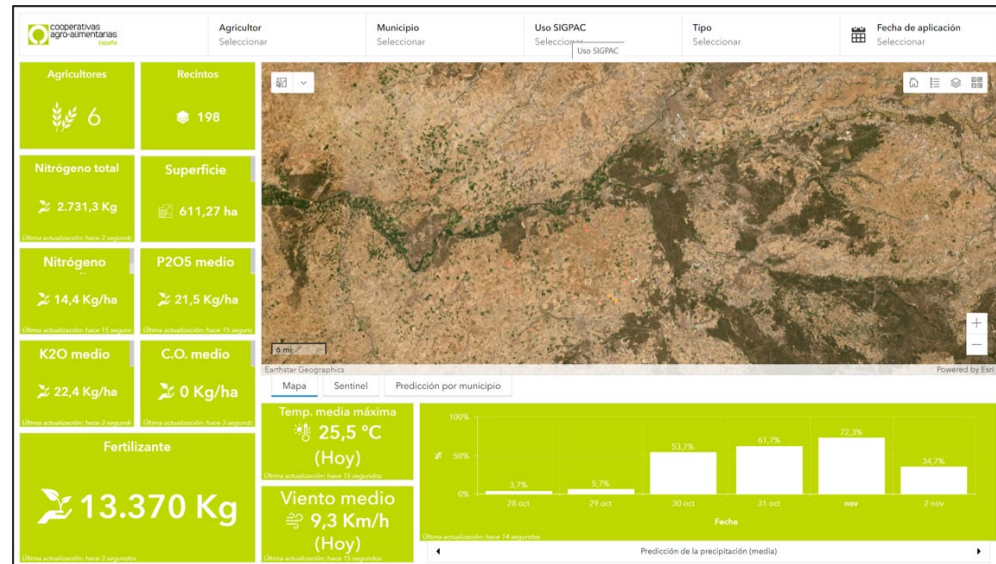


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# Digitalization: through support and guidance



# 2030

- 50% reduction in the use and risk of **plant protection products**
- 50% reduction in the use of more **hazardous pesticides**
- 20% reduction in **fertilizers**
- 50% reduction in **antimicrobials**
- Sustainable production—**soils and water**



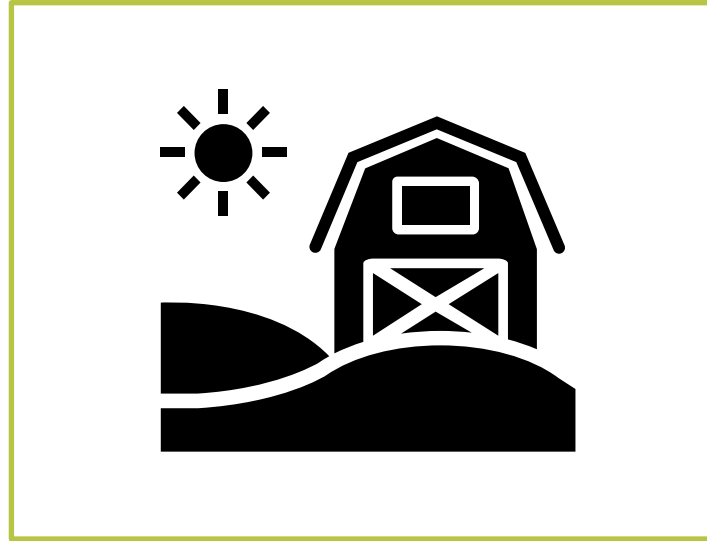


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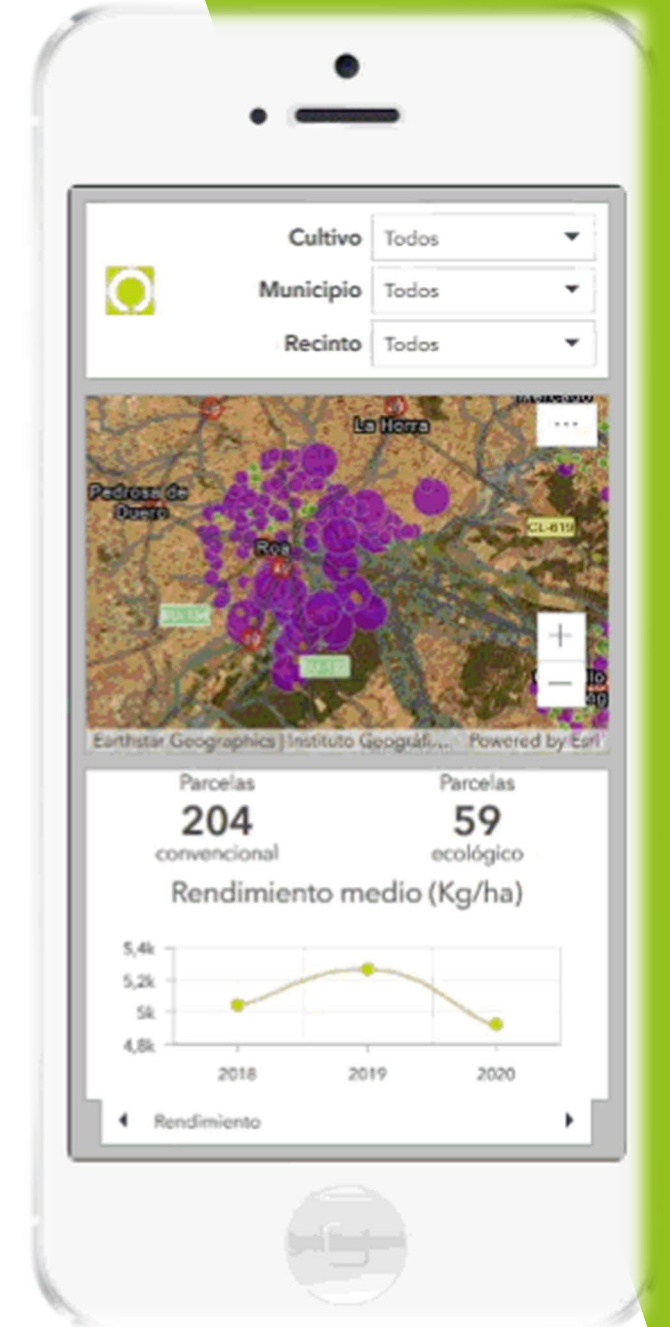
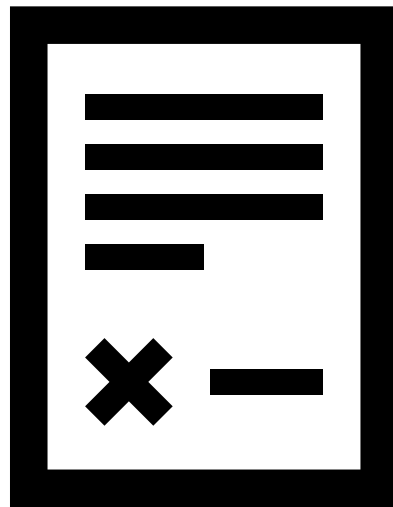


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C3 + SIGO3X



Cooperativas



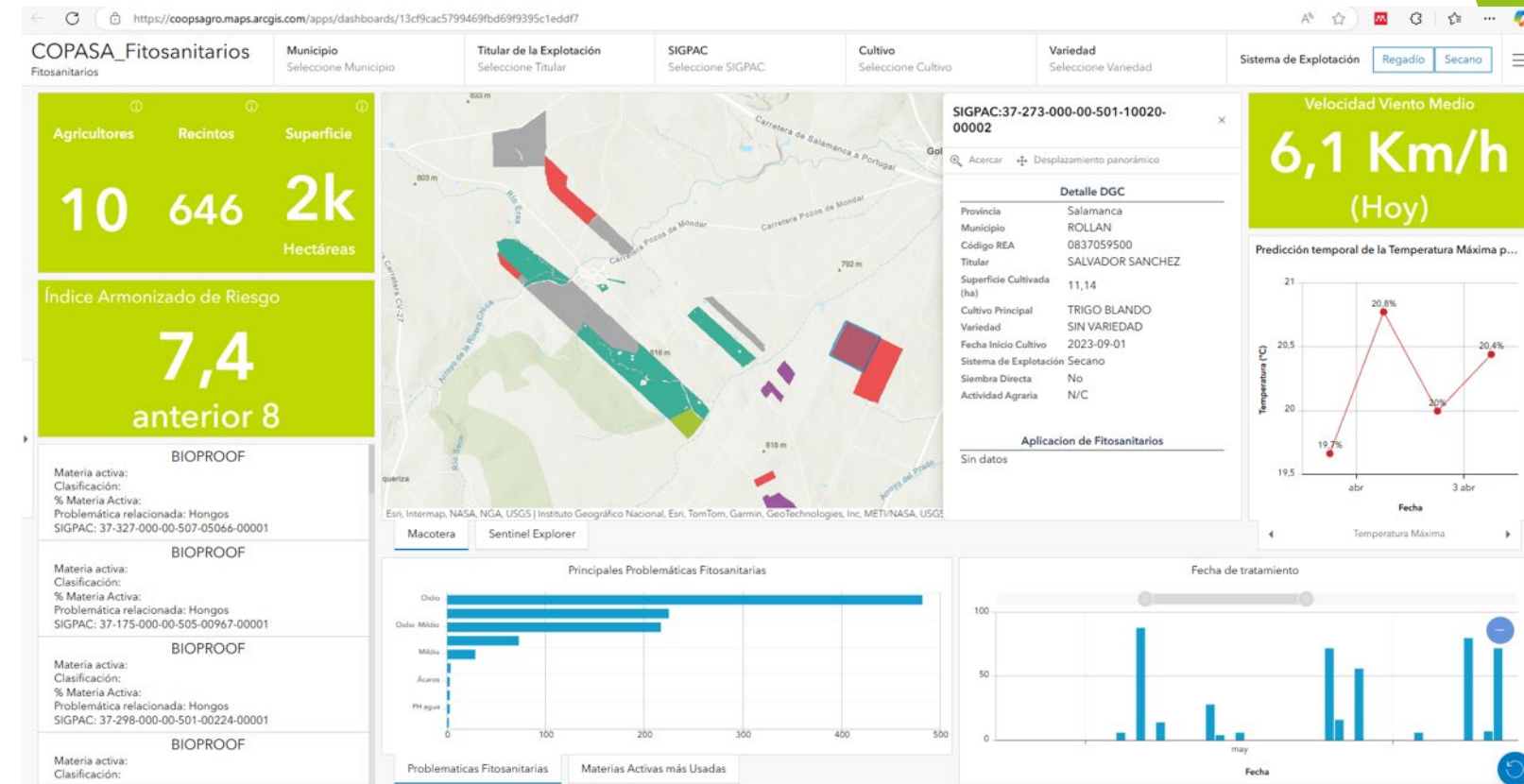
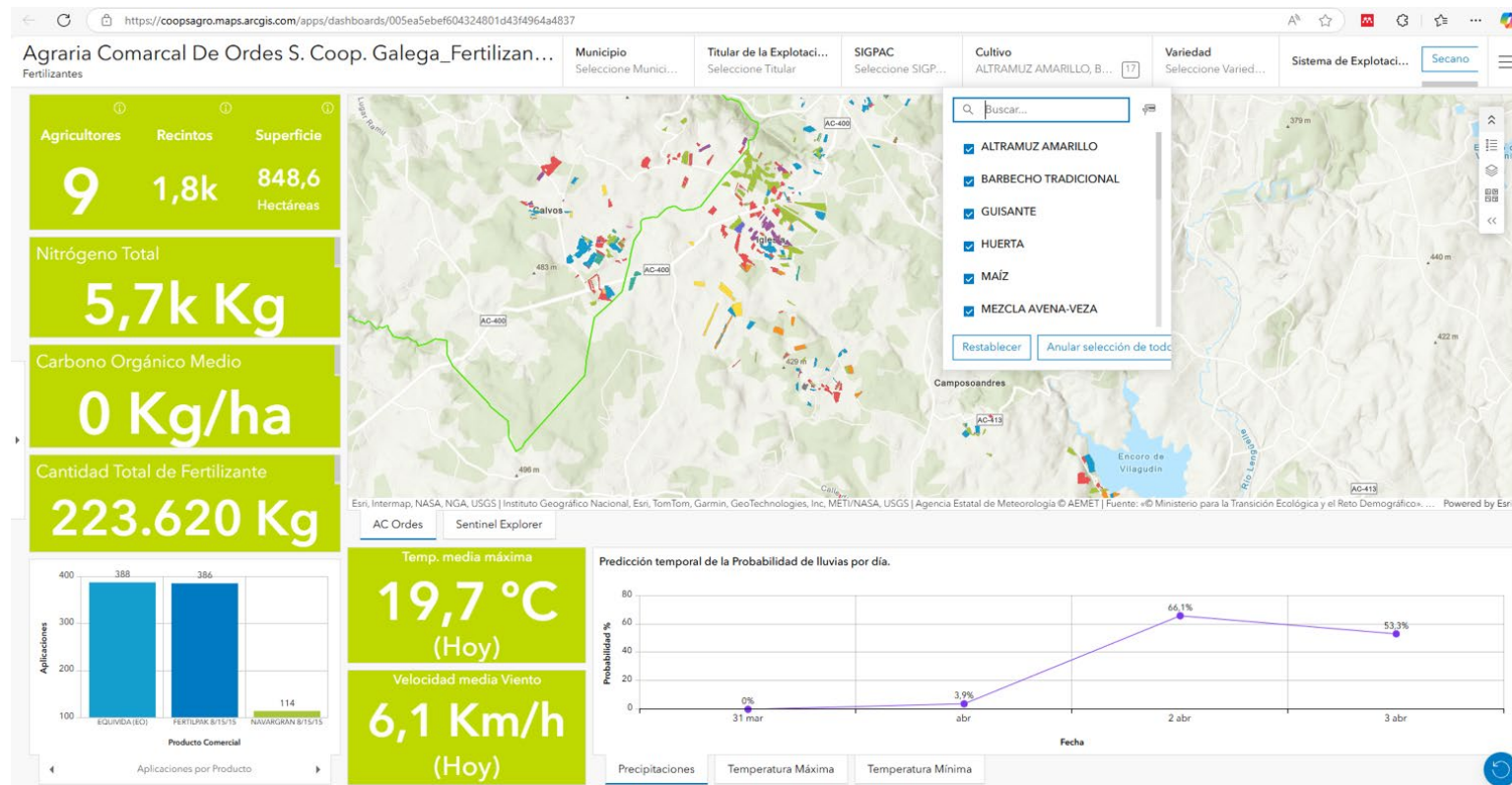
Agricultores





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### SUSTAINABLE NUTRITION DASHBOARD SUSTAINABLE PLANT PROTECTION USE DASHBOARD





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**Moltes gràcies**

