



**CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION THROUGH A SUSTAINABLE
SUPPLY CHAIN FOR THE OLIVE OIL SECTOR**



**REPORT GUIDELINES “How olive growers can obtain the
certification of sustainability credits”**

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Requirements

The certification of sustainability credits deriving from the sustainable management of an olive grove can be obtained applying several requirements. First of all, basic documentation (standard for sustainable management of the olive grove and calculation method for credits quantification) has to be known and the documents required by the standard (in particular the PD - project document) has to be produced. The available documents about grove management (field booklets) and the field data collection has to be verified to produce the technical documentation, then an internal audit to verify the compliance of the indicators of the sustainable management standard has to be performed. These activities are usually carried out by internal staff with proper skills, but the company may require the intervention of consultants who helps to select the system of implementation of good practices (also called "additional practices") based on the characteristics of the company itself. When the good practices have been applied, the company is ready for the inspection visit by the Control Body. After that, the company must comply with the non-conformities detected (if any) by the Control Body and recover the situation in case of non-fulfilment of a requirement. Moreover, the documentation necessary to maintain the attestation have to be prepared and be updated annually.

Actions to be applied

First step: identification of the best sustainable practices to be implemented in your own olive grove (here after listed):

- 1) reduction of chemical fertilizers;
- 2) managing of pruning for energy purpose;
- 3) managing of pruning as soil improvers;

4) green coverage;

5) minimum tillage.

The "Standard for the quantification and verification of sustainability credits deriving from the Sustainable Management of the Olive groves" also requires:

- the demonstration of compliance of additionality (additional management practices with respect to the ordinary scenario called Business as Usual - BAU),
- the absence of the risk that some of the activities envisaged by the project may result in losses (leakage)
- the definition of a not marketable protective buffer.

Once the attestation has been obtained, the practices maintenance must be guaranteed for the time of permanence of the credit established by the standard.

"Methodology of calculation of sustainability credits" (Chapter 3 of the standard) identifies the tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO_{2eq}) as unit of measurement. The selected methodological approach follows the guidelines of the *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - IPCC* (methodological guide for the measurement, estimation and calculation of greenhouse gases for national inventories). The quantification of the emission reduction or the increase of carbon accumulation, which represent the sustainability credits, will be established on the basis of the additional activities implemented and the surface area on which these are applied.