

**Agro-MAC VET**  
**Multi – Actor Cooperation for Vocational Education and Training**  
**in the Agro-food Sector**  
**LLP LDV PARTNERSHIP No: 2008-1- GR1-LEO04-00281 1**

**Case study:**  
**Spain**  
**Whole Education Centre for the Agro-food Sector**

**1. Description of the organization:**

Name: Instituto Técnico y de Gestión Agrícola.  
Technical And Management Institute for Farmers.

Address: **ITG Agrícola (Headquarters)**  
Avda. Serapio Huici, 20-22. Edificio Peritos  
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[www.itga.com](http://www.itga.com)

Activity:  
Researching and experiences in all matters related with extensive crops, vegetables and greenhouses cultivation.

Sector:  
General Farming.

Target group:  
Young farmers (agricultural or livestock farmers) who are starting their businesses, or who want to achieve more knowledge about the management of their crops.

Geographical coverage:  
Regional (Navarra, more targeted in the centre of the region)

Funding:  
Mixed: Anonymous society, but some public funding (human resources and equipment)

Allowances or subventions: N/A

Special connections:  
Cooperatives Associations, Regional Government.

Special achievements and testimonies:

Late April 2010 the Institute was the venue for the general meeting of the **Association of Agricultural Education in Europe** (Europea International, [www.europea.org](http://www.europea.org)), an association that aims to:

- develop and improve education and training
- recognize mutually the national educational qualifications
- stimulate and facilitate students and staff exchanges and to arrange trainee posts
- create structures for achieving common educational programmes
- harmonize training systems
- stimulate land based education and other rural industries
- facilitate appropriate courses for students and staff
- develop contacts to countries outside the EU
- encourage intercultural exchanges
- develop common teaching modules
- study and support changes in agricultural and rural industries in a European context..

## 2. Executive summary

The main objective of the ITGA Institute is the experimentation and research on all matters related to the production of crops, horticulture, and greenhouses.

The institute carries out some experimental activities with a practical approach aimed at solving specific problems faced by farmers. It also collaborates in several research projects in collaboration with Universities and Research Centres, from Spain and abroad.

The common experimental lines are:

- Tests of new varieties that are appearing on the market.
- Tests of new crop protection products and new crop protection techniques that are more respectful with the environment.
- Tests of fertilizers, irrigation systems, tillage and cultivation in general.
- Programming of growing seasons. Advice to farmers.
- Tests diversification, crop rotations or new crops.
- Evaluation of production systems.
- Training of farmers, as a pillar for greater professionalism, constant updating of their skills and knowledge, and in the end, increased profitability of their farms.

To achieve these goals, the ITGA develop several activities:

1. Permanent Training: the daily contact of the technicians associated with farmers on the farm, as one of the most powerful educational tools.
2. Informative talks and posters before and during campaigns in cooperatives.

3. Visits with farmers to experimental farms.
4. Dissemination of results of experimentation in the bimonthly magazine "Navarra Agraria" which is sent directly to the partners.
5. Personal travel with farmers, on demand.
6. "Advanced information Bulletins", which are monthly published and sent to the partners, and that contains tips, warnings and reminders to perform tasks within the month.
7. Training courses: each year there are over one hundred courses for the entire group of farmers and live-stockers within Navarre, covering the following guidelines:
  - Starting Agri-business.
  - Crop and/or livestock specialization.
  - Diversification in agriculture.
  - Environment.
  - Courses for of food processing industries employees.

The institute also works on technical training of trainers of other institutes (which can also be agricultural associations, cooperative unions, and so on), to act as trainers of farmers.

### **3. The study**

Young farmers in Spain are mainly in one of these situations, as regards to their education/knowledge in agribusiness: educated farmers who has some university degree in agriculture, or young farmers who usually depends on the knowledge they have obtained from his/her parents, from whom they have also inherited their land.

To complete the education they have, or sometimes to be able to access to allowances, they have also plenty of information, coming from cooperatives, or associations, at several fields related to farming, from cultivation, to IT, or laws. There's no common source for all this courses. In other cases, the theme of the course is not so related to the crop the farmer is currently cultivating.

The case of ITGA is a perfect centre to allow farmers to get a complete knowledge about the cultivation they are currently running, and, what is more important, to change their mind into a complete and diversified business.

Not only cultivating and having quality products to be sold to some dealers, but also to be able to manage the business without any other help.

The own farmers, with the important support of the regional Government, make this centre. The courses are taught by professional teachers from each of the subjects farmers need, and lessons are given within the whole region, in several dates a year, to allow people from inner regions, with worse communications and fewer services, to get the correct knowledge. Special courses are given in case of sudden pests or diseases in the lands.

The systems works, as it is demonstrated by its 25 years of existence, and it has also involved public organizations to support it, as farming is one of the most important economic sectors in the Navarra region.

The innovation in this case is the continuous contact with farmers, by organizing special seminars, informing about allowances. Farmers are also involved, as they cannot enrol courses without being members of any farming association within the region, so they are obliged and concerned to be united, as a group, to share common problems or difficulties.

They also provide farmers special tools, developed for them, to manage for example with accounting or sells.



Education and Culture DG

### Lifelong Learning Programme

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