

## Arable Cross Visit

### Arable cropping in Portugal Bio-Region – Soil management and ecosystem regeneration

Portugal, Idanha-a-Nova

30 JUNE to 02 JULY 2026



The OrganicAdviceNetwork project aims to build a strong network of advisors with organic competences across Europe. As part of this mission, the project organizes cross visits for agricultural advisors to meet, exchange and share their innovative organic farming practices.

Join us and explore the evolving organic sector in Portugal. The Central region in Portugal has a rich history of arable cropping. We will visit Idanha-a-Nova, recognized as the largest area of organic farming in the country. This bioregion in Portugal won the EU Organic Award in 2023.

#### What you can expect from this cross visit

- Learn about the conversion process to organic farming, its stages, motivations, and challenges for new organic operators.
- Discover the main arable crops grown in Portugal and how their production has evolved over the years.
- Learn about one of the most important bio-regions in Europe (Idanha-a-Nova), as well as one of the most renowned organic farms in Portugal.
- Learn about the main ways of working with arable crops in Portugal, crop rotation processes, benefits for the soil, the environment, and the quality of the final product.

## DAY 1 - 30 JUNE 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
Before 13:30	Arrive at <a href="#">CONSULAI offices</a>	
13:30 - 14:30	Introduction session	<b>Lisbon</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce the cross-visit program.</li> <li>• Round table to get to know each other</li> </ul>
14:30 - 16:00	Overview of organic production in Portugal	<b>Lisbon</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the Portuguese agricultural landscape with a focus on the Bio-Region of Idanha-a-nova – CONSULAI</li> <li>• Presentation of the organic sector in Portugal, with a focus on arable crops - AGROBIO</li> <li>• Discussion and exchange of views among participants, focusing on how Bio-Regions and Bio-Districts are being developed in their respective countries.</li> </ul>
16:00 - 19:00	Travel to the hotel in Castelo Branco	
19:00	Accommodation in the Castelo Branco region	
20:00	Dinner in Castelo Branco	

**DAY 2 - 01 JULY 2026**

TIME	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
08:15 - 09:00	Travel to Monte Silveria	
09:00 - 14:00	Visit 1: <a href="#">Monte Silveira Bio</a>	<p><b>Castelo Branco</b></p> <p>700 hectares, operating organically since 1999, focusing on soil care, promoting biodiversity, and ecosystem regeneration.</p> <p>When it comes to arable crops, Monte Silveira Bio focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cereals: Barley, wheat, oats, rye, triticale, and millet.</li> <li>- Legumes: Chickpeas, kidney beans, black-eyed peas, lupins, fava beans, peas, vetch, vetchlings, and fava beans.</li> </ul> <p>Management focuses on growing these cereals and legumes with a view to minimizing environmental impact through strategic cultivation with nitrogen-fixing capacity, enriching the soil and eliminating the need for fertilizers.</p>
14:30 - 15:30	Lunch	
16:00 - 17:30	Visit 2: Bioraia	<p>Bio-Raia is a producer association that supports organic farmers in the Idanha-a-Nova Bio-Region. The visit will highlight how the association provides technical support, facilitates peer-to-peer learning, and strengthens the local organic value chain. Participants will gain insights into how advisory services contribute to the rapid growth of organic farming in the region. Through this visit, you will also see what the Idanha-a-Nova Bio-Region is, how it developed, and why it is considered one of the most important in Europe.</p>
17:30 - 18:30	Travel to the hotel	
20:00 - 22:00	Social Dinner in Castelo Branco	

**DAY 3 - 02 JULY 2026**

TIME	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
09:00 - 10:00	<b>Travel to Fundão</b>	
10:00 - 13:00	Visit 2: <a href="#">Keela Permaculture Farm</a>	<p><b>Fundão</b></p> <p>Founded in 2016, covering approximately 18 hectares, the goal is to produce and live in harmony with nature.</p> <p>The farm underwent a conversion process from conventional to organic farming and is now certified and 100% organic.</p> <p>It has around 10 hectares of cereal and legume production, focusing on water adaptation, reforestation, and soil regeneration.</p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch in Fundão	
14:00 - 17:00	Travel to Lisbon Reflection on day 3	Exchange on lessons learnt from the visit General feedback about the Cross Visit
End of the Cross Visit		

## Practical Information

### Requirements

Participation to the entire cross visit program. There is no possibility to arrive later or leave earlier, except for local participants. We suggest arriving before noon to have time to get to CONSULAI's facilities on the first day.

### Participants

Agricultural advisor supporting organic farmers, or farmers in conversion as well as, advisors or young graduates willing to gain competences in organic advice, are welcome to join this cross visit. Maximum 15 participants.

### Registration

You will be asked to provide some personal information, a brief description of your interest in joining this visit and your capacity in covering your travel costs. Participation is not guaranteed because the number of advisors who may join the visit is limited. Participants will receive a confirmation message.

**Registration deadline: 29 April 2026; Confirmation of application: 10 May 2026.**

The registration deadline might be extended in case of undersubscription.

**Link to Registration:** <https://forms.office.com/e/MS1V79FYGH>

### Travel costs

In case you do not have budget to cover your travel costs, the project advisory partner in your respective country can reimburse part of your travel costs.

Eligible countries for cost reimbursement are FR, BE, DE, IT, BG, EE, DK, AT, CH, HU, ES, PT, HR, RO, IE, NL, SE, FI, CZ, PL, GR, SI, RS.

Eligible costs for reimbursement are transport (train, flight), accommodation (2-3 nights), social lunch and dinners, up to a limit 400-800 EUR/participant.

Once your participation to the cross visit is confirmed, you will receive more detailed information by the advisory project partner in your country about the conditions for cost reimbursement.

Costs during the Cross Visit are estimated to 500 EUR including for breakfasts, 2 social lunches & 2 dinners as well as the accommodation for 2 nights. This estimation does not include the food and transport expenses to reach Lisbon.

### Contact information

For any additional information, please contact:

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