Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária e Veterinária, I.P.

AGROECOLOGY PARTNERSHIP

Agroecology: Conservation Agriculture in Mediterranean Systems

Forage and pastures

27/04/2026

Nuno Simões

Mod. CI-005/3 (06.2024)

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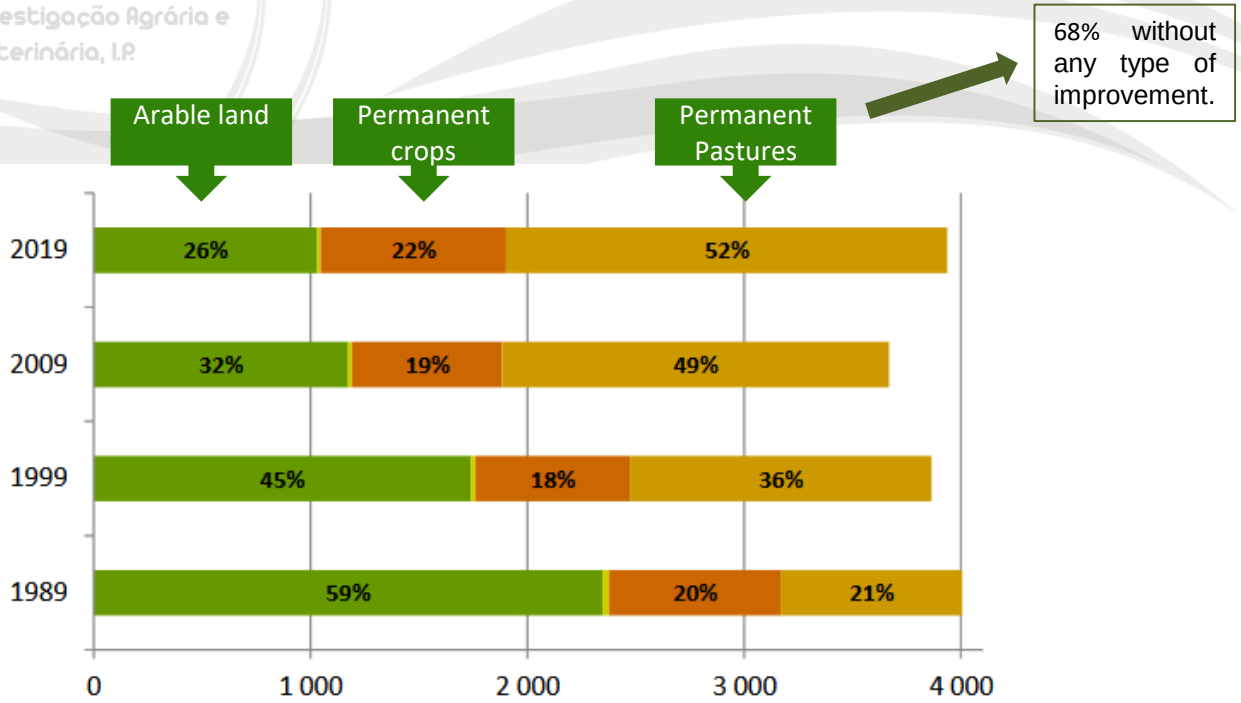

Portugal Agricultural Land Use (1989-2019) - Agricultural Census (INE, IP)

Pasture

‘Community of plants, generally herbaceous, used predominantly in the same place where they grow by grazing animals.’ – Moreira, 2002

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The main purpose of pastures is to feed animals.

But are important also for:

- ✓ Use and valorization of areas that are not suitable for other types of activities and that would otherwise remain abandoned;
- ✓ Protect soils from erosion by maintaining a permanent plant cover;
- ✓ Through direct grazing allows the recycling of nutrients;
- ✓ Sequester carbon, reducing the emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and contributing to air quality;
- ✓ Maintaining the harmony of the landscape;
- ✓ Contribute to the settlement of the population.

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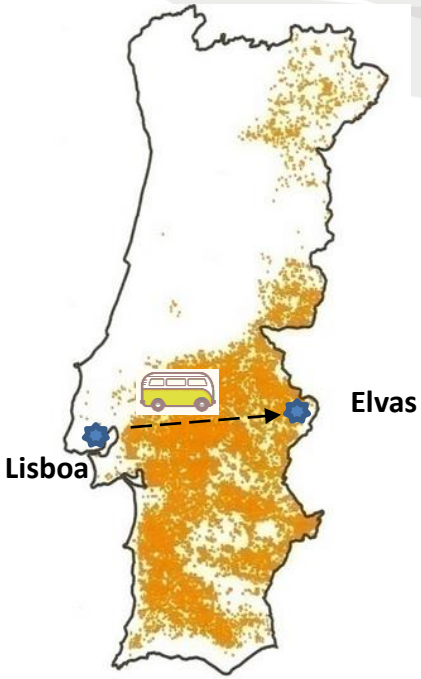
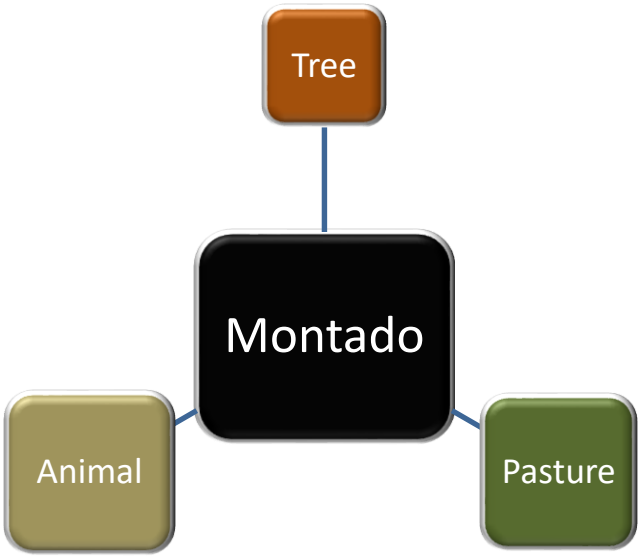
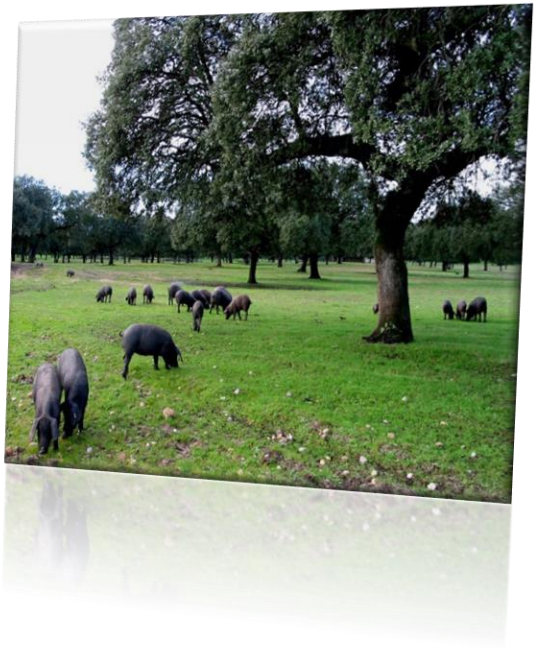
Montado

Agro-silvo-pastoral system







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Cork oak (*Quercus suber*)

Holm oak (*Q. rotundifolia*)

Black oak (*Q. pyrenaica*)

Acorn

Portuguese oak (*Q. faginea*)

.

‘Alentejano’

‘Mertolenga’

Indigenous Breeds

‘Serpentina’

‘Merino-branco’

asparagus

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Mushrooms

Honey

Asparagus

Rabbit

Eagle

Boar

Fox

Partridge

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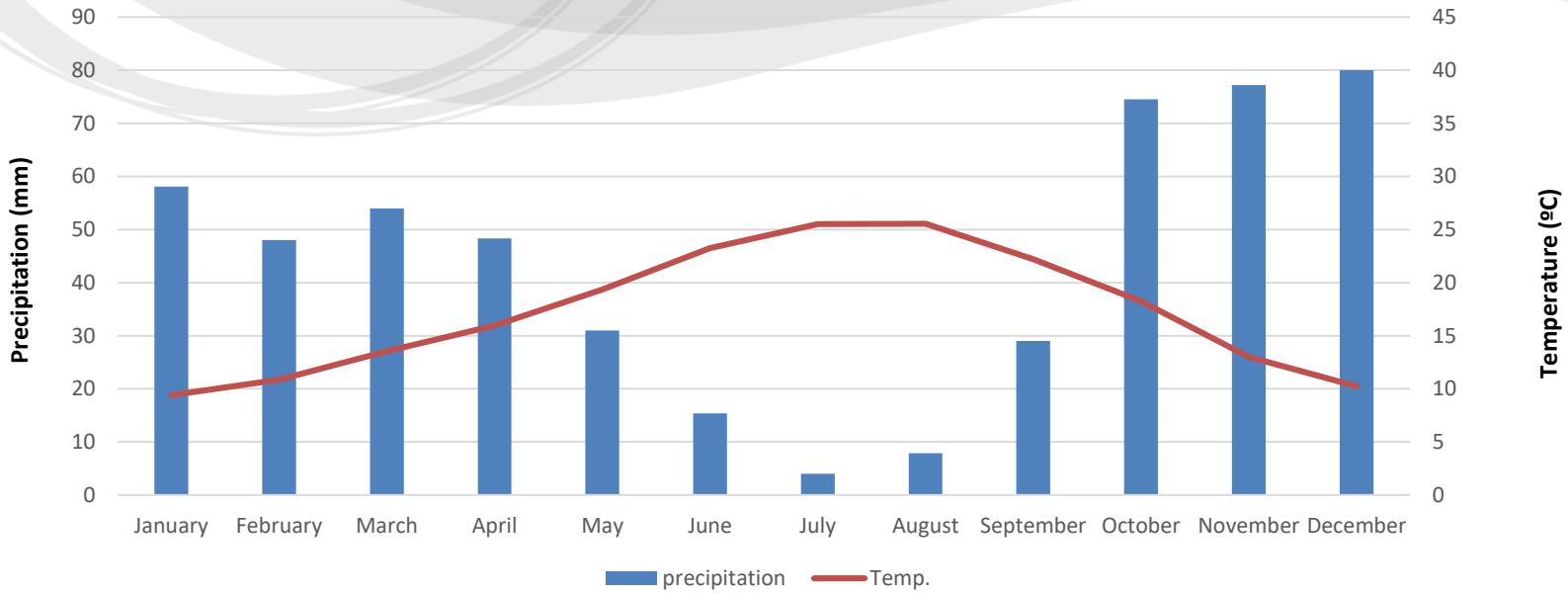
Annual precipitation (1994-2024) = 528,3 mm



January – April (1994-2024) - 208,4 mm
January – 23 March (2026) - 323,7 mm

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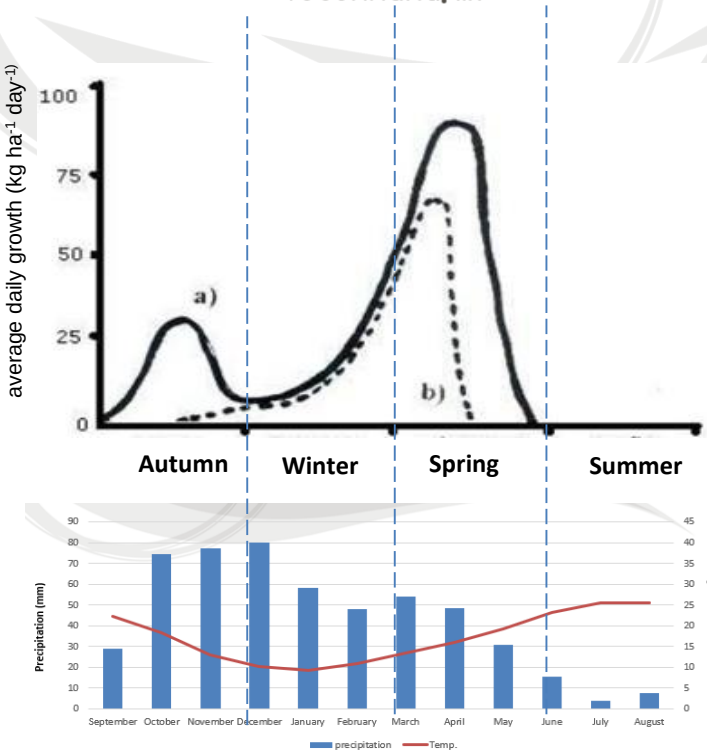
average daily growth (kg ha-1 day-1)
100
75
50
25
0
a)
b)
Autumn
Winter
Spring
Summer
Precipitation (mm)
Temperature (ºC)
September
October
November
December
January
February
March
April
May
June
July
August
precipitation
Temp.

.

Winter

Spring

Summer

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Forages

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