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Quinoa’s Experimentation and Production in the Mediterranean Region.

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The climate of Mediterranean region will become drier and hotter in the next decades. Agriculture would have to adapt to effects of climate change for maintaining food production able to feed an increasing population. In many places, we also note problems of soil salinity that appears yet as a problem for local cereals.

A possible alternative to minimize the effects of climate change is to introduce new species with better tolerance to salt and drought stresses. One alternative is quinoa (Chenopodium quinoa Willd.), which was already grown in field trials in several Mediterranean countries, to study the effects of drought and salinity on yields and other characters.

The first experimentation of quinoa in the Mediterranean was in 1999 in Morocco and nowadays some countries like France or Spain have more than 3,000 hectares, and we can see other quinoa’s trials in many countries (Algeria, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Tunisia, and Turkey, etc.) probably in more than 15 in the region.

This research presents a review of quinoa experimentation in this area and presents the perspective of its development for the future.

Keywords: Chenopodium Quinoa Willd - Climate Change - Crop Adaptation - Mediterranean Region - Sustainable Agriculture.