



**COUNTRY:** PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC

**COMMITTEE:** FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION

**TOPIC:** INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC AND FIGHTING HUNGER IN THE WORLD

Portugal covers an area of approximately 90000 km<sup>2</sup>, 81% of which is rural. 47% of the total area is agricultural land and 39% is forests. The total population is 10 million, of which 33% live in rural areas. Portuguese agriculture is very diverse due to different soil, climate and landscape characteristics.

Due to the decrease in the rural population and the aging of the population is a major problem in our country, a Rural Development Program was prepared and support was provided to approximately 23,000 farm enterprises. In the last 10 years, more than 6,100 young farmers have been enabled to establish new farms within the scope of these supports. In the context of the modernization of the agricultural sector and its improved economic-environmental performance, more than 3,500 producers have been enabled to participate in quality programs.

With the Rural Development Program, more than 12.000 hectares of land have been afforested, and with the agri-environment plans, the organic farming area has been increased to approximately 2.5 million hectares and better management of natural resources has been ensured.

It is clear that countries only increasing their agricultural production will not be sufficient in terms of fighting hunger due to the increase in the world population.

For this reason, we share some of the products we obtain within the scope of agricultural activities in our country with countries struggling with hunger under the coordination of the European Union for humanitarian aid purposes.

In conclusion, as the government of Portuguese Republic, our struggle on this issue will continue until the end of hunger in the world.