



Unit 2 (part 2): The Primary Sector in Europe and Spain

INDEX

1.	Agriculture.....	1
1.1.	Production.....	1
1.2.	Agricultural landscapes	2
1.3.	The importance of the Common Agricultural Policy CAP.	2
2.	Fishing	2
2.1.	The Common Fisheries Policy CFP	3
2.2.	Fishing in Spain.....	3
a)	Problems	3
b)	Fishing Industry	3
c)	Fishing grounds and fishing regions.....	3

1. Agriculture

In Europe and in Spain most of the agricultural landscape has common characteristics.

It is a **developed agricultural landscape** with a considerable use of mechanisation, technology, irrigation, specialised crops, regular fields...

It's also a **market economy**, as most of the products are aimed for the market (whether in the same country or in others).

Of course there are areas where the traditional techniques and a subsistence economy is still practised.

1.1. Production

Europe	Spain
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The European Union occupies the 3rd position in the world agricultural production. In 2015 it produced 333 billion dollars. - The production of agricultural products related with GDP is 1.6% - A 5% of Labour Force works in agriculture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spain occupies the 18th position in the world agricultural production, producing in 2015 the amount of 39 billion dollars. - Spain occupies the 3rd position in the European agricultural production after France and Italy. A 12.5% of the European agricultural products come from Spain. - The production of agricultural products related with GDP is 2.5% - A 2.9% of Labour Force works in agriculture.



1.2. Agricultural landscapes

The agricultural landscapes in Europe and in Spain are very similar and represent the same reality.

Type of landscape	Europe	Spain
<p><u>Oceanic Agricultural Landscape</u> It corresponds to areas with oceanic climate. It's specialised in intensive livestock farming for dairy products (lácteos) and meat. It also produces cereals and fodder (forraje).</p>	Western Europe	Northern and Western part of Spain
<p><u>Continental Agricultural Landscape</u> In the coniferous forest the main production is timber. In the central plains the main production is cereals, fodder and livestock farming. In irrigated areas industrial crops may be planted.</p>	Central and Eastern Europe	It doesn't exist in Spain.
<p><u>Mediterranean Irrigation Agriculture Landscape</u> It consists on intense irrigation agriculture (fruits, vegetables and industrial crops) and greenhouse cultivation (strawberries, tomatoes...)</p>	Mediterranean areas	Levantine area and Southern Coastal areas.
<p><u>Mediterranean Dry Agriculture Landscape</u> It is based on Mediterranean trilogy (cereals, vineyards and olives). Livestock farming is also practised. We can find extensive livestock farming (sheep, pigs and cows) and intensive livestock farming near the cities (pigs and cows).</p>	Mediterranean areas	Interior of Spain
<p><u>The peculiarity of the Canary Islands</u> We can find very developed cultivations with modern and advanced techniques with products aimed for exportation (bananas, tomatoes, new potatoes, cucumber, flowers, pimienta, papaya, avocado...). In livestock farming we can find intensive farms of pig and poultry, and also extensive exploitations of sheep and goats.</p>		

1.3. The importance of the Common Agricultural Policy CAP.

The CAP (in Spanish is known as PAC), is the agricultural policy of the European Union and is vital for all the European countries.

The budget of the European Union for the CAP is a 38% of the total income.

Its main policies are:

- To limit surplus production using for that production quotas (or limits for the production).
- To establish compensatory payments for European farmers.
- To establish fair prices for farmers and consumers.
- To protect rural areas and support rural development.
- To promote an environmental agriculture through legislation and economic aids.

2. Fishing

Fishing is a very important economic activity for Europe and for Spain. Both areas have to confront the same challenges and the same **problems** such as the overexploitation and disappearance of certain marine species; and an excessive fleet in comparison with the scarcity of fish.



2.1. The Common Fisheries Policy CFP

The CFP refers to the European policy that rules the fishing activities.

Its main policies are:

- To guarantee the supply of a safe, varied and healthy fish supply.
- To avoid surpluses using for that quotas.
- To protect the marine resources through quotas and legislation. The legislation includes the prohibition of certain fishing nets and the protection of some species
- Encouraging aquaculture thanks to economic aids.
- Promoting development and diversification in fishing regions.

2.2. Fishing in Spain

Fishing in Spain has always been a very important economic activity, although lately this importance has been reduced.

a) Problems

The main problems are very similar to the European problems:

- o Overexploitation and exhaustion of some marine species
- o Excessive size of the fleet in comparison to the limited and exhausted fishing grounds

b) Fishing Industry

Fishing industry includes not only the fishing activity but also other important economic activities that create many jobs in fishing ports. These activities are canning, salting, freezing, the production of oils, research...

c) Fishing grounds and fishing regions

The fishing grounds where the Spanish fleet fish are in Spain, the EU and all around the world.

For international fishing the EU signs agreements with different countries, that allows Spain to fish in other countries and areas.

The different fishing regions in Spain are **Galicia**, that is the most important fishing region with products such as molluscs and crustaceans, followed by **Cantabria**, the **Atlantic coast**, the **Canary Islands** and the **Mediterranean**.

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