

## EFFECTS OF GROUND COVERS IN WOODY CROPS, PROS AND CONS IN SEMIARID AREAS



18 December 2023

12:00 to 13:00 PM CEST

Soils of vineyards and olive groves are among the most degraded agricultural soils due to frequent soil tillage. The use of ground covers also named cover crops is a nature-based solution effective for reducing or avoiding degradation.

Ground covers offer various benefits, including significant soil erosion prevention, increased organic matter in the topsoil, improved soil structure, and reduced nutrient loss. The webinar will delve into the materials and methods used to demonstrate these advantages. It will also present findings from ongoing research conducted in semi-arid regions of Spain. Given its relevance in semi-arid Mediterranean regions, the webinar will also explore some of the reasons behind farmers' reluctance to adopt ground covers as well as the environmental support measures proposed by the Common Agricultural Policy for promoting sustainable land management practices.



### **Maria Jose Marques**

**Dr. Maria Jose Marques is a professor of Land Conservation and Pedology at the Autonomous University of Madrid. Over the past 20 years, her research has centred on investigating the impacts of re-greening abandoned lands, devising strategies for mitigating soil erosion, examining soil organic carbon dynamics, and identifying obstacles to the acceptance of sustainable land management practices.**



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