



CASE STUDY N°14



Organisation: American Farm School (AFS) & Captain Vassilis & Carmen Konstantakopoulos Foundation (CVF) under KAEM (Center for AgriFood Entrepreneurship of Messenia)

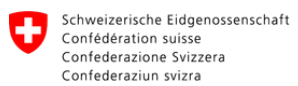
Sector: Agriculture

Location: Messenia, Greece



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The CAEM Living Lab (CAEM-LL) operates in Messenia, Greece, a region with a long-standing tradition in olive oil production. Its purpose is to act as a catalyst for the transition of olive production systems toward more resilient and sustainable models. The Living Lab focuses on developing, implementing, and disseminating agroecological and climate-smart practices that reduce environmental impacts, enhance biodiversity, and secure the social and economic sustainability of local communities.

Messenia faces increasing climate-related pressures, including droughts, emerging pests and disease outbreaks, and declining productivity. In response, CAEM-LL creates an open co-creation environment where farmers, researchers, policymakers, and social partners collaborate to design, test, and implement solutions under real-life conditions. The initiative integrates farms, cooperatives, and educational facilities, bridging scientific knowledge with local experience through participatory methodologies, applied research, and training activities.

By introducing innovative tools such as IoT field sensors, monitoring software, and environmental footprint assessment methods, the Living Lab strengthens the resilience of olive cultivation. It also promotes synergies between the agri-food sector and tourism, gastronomy, and culture, contributing to broader territorial development and positioning Messenia as a reference point for sustainable olive production across the Mediterranean and Europe.