

# THE ECO-CANTEENS IN THE SCHOOLS OF CANARY ISLANDS, SPAIN

Since 2013 the [Eco-canteens at school](#) are spreading in each of the seven Canary islands in Spain to provide students with organic, local and seasonal food.

In 2020 there are currently running 51 eco-canteens in education centres, involving 10.824 clients and a network of 102 organic agricultural producers from the different islands.

The programme of Eco-canteens of Canary Islands is promoted by the [Institute for Agri-food Quality \(ICCA\)](#) in collaboration with the *General Directorate for Educational Planning, Innovation and Promotion* of the Canary Islands Government. The Programme is part of the [Action plan for the development of organic production in the Canary Islands](#), the result of a participatory process initiated in 2010 with the involvement of organic producers and the public administration.

The Programme develops a set of strategic initiatives aimed at incorporating fresh, local and seasonal organic products in the menu of schools and at the same time to reinforce the development of organic agricultural produce on the whole territory of Canary Islands.

The Programme envisages an open process to progressively involve new partners. It is implemented through a joint collaboration between the ICCA Institute and the Directorate General for Educational Planning, Innovation and Promotion of the Regional Government, which define instruments, rules, and criteria to facilitate the active participation of the other interested actors.

In order to identify the schools, for example, a committee is responsible for drawing up a list of potential participants, based on the applications and established criteria. All the schools establish a specific commitment to be part of the Network of Eco-canteens of Canary Islands. The design and elaboration of the menu served in the schools fosters the consumption of local, seasonal and ecological products, and at the same time considers the nutritional values for the reduction of overweight and obesity problems, providing a considerable benefit in the health of the students.

Moreover, in order to encourage the participation of agricultural producers, the Programme has established specific criteria to be followed, which have been agreed upon with the producers and can be consulted on the website. The network of producers



is made up of people and companies recorded in the Register of Ecological Operators of the Canary Islands (ROPE) and linked to the Canary Islands Eco-Canteens Programme through specific commitments.

In order to guarantee a fair price for the producers and to make it affordable for the schools, the Program elaborates a [proposal of product's prices for each island](#), agreeing with the eco-canteens on the selling price and keeping it stable during the whole year.

The website presents the potential crops that could be obtained on each island, in consideration of the specificities of the cultivation areas and the capability of the organic producers who are part of the Program. As an example, the website displays [the seasonal products of La Gomera Island](#) and [the price list](#). The price list is revised annually.

For the organic producers of the Canary Islands, the Eco-Canteens Program represents a great opportunity, establishing a reliable short supply chain because it is supported by local institutions and services, which allows them to plan their crops (in varieties and quantities), reducing risks and boosting their activity.

The Programme also undertakes and promotes a wide range of initiatives with the aim of broadening the participation of new actors and the entire population. Events, forums, seminars, conferences, open-days for the public and training courses on organic production and its benefits for food and health are organized. The purpose of all these initiatives is to inform, stimulate debate and provide constructive proposals about production and consumption of local organic food.

The Program began by targeting non-university public schools of infant and primary education. However, having considered the results achieved, the ICCA Institute and the Government of the Canary Islands decided to expand their action to the canteens of any educational centre, hospital, social or university centre of the Islands that would be interested in participating.

With the Eco-Canteens Program, the Government of the Canary Islands and the ICCA Institute offer an example of an innovative initiative that can be replicated by any regional or local government interested in enhancing the seasonal and ecological products of the territory, improving the nutrition and health of students and the entire population, creating a new generation of ecological consumers.

### To know more

[Ecocomedores de Canarias website](#)

[Ecocomedores de Canarias in Facebook](#)

[Ecocomedores de Canarias Press Review](#)

[Ecocomedores in Gobierno de Canarias website](#)



[Article in laprovincia.es](http://laprovincia.es)

[Video in Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

[Article in cadenaser.com](http://cadenaser.com)

[Article in ull.es Universidad de la Laguna portal](http://ull.es)

[Article in agroinformacion.com](http://agroinformacion.com)

[Article in semanacalidadtenerife.org](http://semanacalidadtenerife.org)

[Atlasruraldegrancanaria.com](http://Atlasruraldegrancanaria.com)

[Instituto de Calidad Agroalimentaria ICCA](http://Instituto de Calidad Agroalimentaria ICCA)



## Curso

Planificación de cultivos hortícolas y técnicas en Agricultura Ecológica

Docente: Pedro G. Tenoury Domínguez, Ingeniero Agrónomo.



Lugar: **Salón CBAL**  
del Cabildo ubicada en C/ Trillo, 25  
**10 y 11 de octubre de 16:00 a 19:00h.**

Organizan: **Cabildo de Lanzarote y el Instituto Canario de Calidad Agroalimentaria (ICCA)**



**INSCRIPCIÓN:**  
Oficinas de la Granja Agrícola Experimental  
del 5 de octubre de 07:00 a 13:00  
**PRECIO: 5 € PLAZAS: 30**