

EDIA, MARÉ AND ASSOCIATION OF BENEFICIARIES FROM MONTE NOVO IRRIGATION PERIMETER SIGN
A MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

19th March 2014

EDIA, MARÉ - Supply Market for the region of Évora and the Association of Beneficiaries from Monte Novo Irrigation Perimeter sign on next **Saturday, March 22nd, at 12:00 am, on "Feira da Água" in Beja**, a collaboration agreement for the development of a row production and marketing of fruit and vegetables, in a **ceremony presided by the Secretary of State for Forestry and Rural Development, Francisco Gomes da Silva**.

This protocol is the result of EDIA`s commitment in promoting the development of irrigation and the region, based on sustainable farms on the technically, economically and environmentally point of view, in crop diversification and in wealth creation by Alqueva beneficiaries, and aims the support to marketing, sale and distribution of agricultural products.

The challenge made by MARÉ, as an entity designed to promote the flow of regional production, now possible with the conversion of new areas for irrigation, was the springboard to articulate these entities.

The cooperation with MARÉ and the Association of Beneficiaries from Monte Novo Irrigation Perimeter is essential in order to find new alternative to flow crops through this regional supply market and, at the same time, is also ensured the representation of farmers in the region, as well as their concerns and motivations that welcomed this initiative as a regional need.

The cultures to be developed by producers, will be determined according to a set of parameters, particularly its aptitude to the territory, opportunities for disposal, recovery of produced products, agronomic and market risk and the degree of technological requirement.

The project will be developed initially, with producers Monte Novo Irrigation Perimeter, situated geographically close to MARÉ.

This Memorandum of Cooperation, after an initial phase, will be open to other associations of irrigation farmers, and if it will prove to be of great relevance to a significant number of producers, will be able to advance to the constitution of a Producers` Organisation in the region.

Remember that, at this date, Alqueva has about 68 thousand hectares installed, and that are in work another 20 thousand hectares. The remaining area, to make the total 120 000 ha, is in tender procedure.