

PRESS RELEASE

Götsch Experience 2025 positions Vale da Esteva as a national hub for Syntropic Agriculture

Castelo Branco, October 28, 2025 – From October 22 to 26, the third edition of the Götsch Experience took place in Vale da Esteva, located in the heart of the Tejo Internacional Transboundary Biosphere Reserve. Led by the pioneer of Syntropic Agriculture, Ernst Götsch, this intensive training has established itself as one of the most important events for regenerative agroecology in Portugal, bringing together participants from various nationalities.

A new model closer to the community

The 2025 edition debuted a semi-immersion format designed to simplify logistics, promote local participation, and deepen ties with the local community of Castelo Branco. Harmonious Jungle, the event's promoter, considered this edition the most successful ever, highlighting it as "the most effective model to date," supported by high participant satisfaction.

An international group with personal projects

Nine participants took part, coming from Lisbon, Cascais, Nazaré, Castelo Branco, São Paulo (Brazil), and Chatham (United Kingdom), the latter of Peruvian nationality. Most participants have no professional connection to the agricultural sector, but all showed a strong personal commitment to the ecological regeneration of their own land and living contexts.

The programme was supported by the Vale da Esteva Agro Team and involved contributions from local experts such as Francisco Fidalgo, José Maria Águas, David Frazão (Fidalgo Consultores Unipessoal Lda.), and Ricardo Botelho (Viticulture and Oenology), ensuring a rigorous technical approach rooted in field practice.

A transformative experience with real impact

Activities proceeded as planned, with highlights including interventions in agroforestry areas implemented in 2023 and 2024, replanting of lost species, planting in newly regenerated zones, and a technical visit to the future syntropic olive grove – one of the expansion areas of the REVE Project – Vale da Esteva Ecosystems Regeneration.

Participants highlighted the richness of the practical component, the direct transmission of knowledge from Ernst Götsch, and the collaborative environment. The intensity of the experience exceeded expectations and fostered a genuine spirit of co-creation and regeneration.

Academia and professionals mobilised

On October 25, Ernst Götsch delivered a lecture at IPCB – Polytechnic Institute of Castelo Branco, attended by 82 participants, including faculty and students from the Higher Schools of Agriculture of Castelo Branco and Coimbra, as well as 14 trainees from the project "Initiatives for Sustainable Agricultural Production" promoted by the company CONSULAI.

This moment reflected the growing interest from academia and professionals in the regenerative paradigm, reinforcing Vale da Esteva's role as a living laboratory for agricultural innovation and a national dissemination hub for syntropic practices.

A vision for the future

Harmonious Jungle views this edition of the Götsch Experience as a strategic milestone in consolidating Vale da Esteva® as a reference hub for Syntropic Agriculture in Portugal.