

The evolution of the chestnut harvesting technique

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Abstract

Harvesting of chestnuts is traditionally done with hand labor, but may be more efficient by mechanical harvesting. The development of chestnut cultivation has been related to the introduction of harvesting machines. Production costs are greatly affected by the harvesting technique. The productivity depends on the different factors like soil conditions, slope, orchard production and organization of the harvesting yard. Machines for chestnuts harvesting fall into two main categories according to the operating principles: vacuum harvesters and mechanical harvesters. The mechanization has brought many benefits in agriculture but it is necessary to pursue with research. Feasibility of performing mechanized harvesting at low costs also in steep ground, improvement of safety for workers, improvement of maneuverability and ease of driving, are also essential matters to solve. The paper describes the technical aspects of the several harvesting technique used on chestnut crops.