



REGIONE  
PUGLIA



PSR Puglia 2014-2020

Misura 16 Cooperazione – Sottomisura 16.2 “Sostegno a progetti pilota e allo sviluppo di nuovi prodotti, pratiche, processi e tecnologie”



PEANUT  
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## DIFFUSION

### Asia

Asia represents the primary peanut-producing continent, accounting for about 60% of global production. The main producers in this region are China and India:

- **China:** China is one of the world's largest producers and consumers of peanuts, with cultivation concentrated in eastern and central provinces like Shandong, Henan, and Hebei. Most production is intended for domestic consumption, both as oil and direct food use. In China, intensive farming techniques are adopted to maximize yield, with increasing focus on high-yield and disease-resistant varieties.
- **India:** In India, peanuts are an important oilseed crop primarily grown in Gujarat, which accounts for about 40% of national production. Other significant producing states include Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka. Cultivation in India often involves low-input agricultural systems, although the country is making progress in adopting improved varieties and advanced farming practices to increase productivity and resistance to drought and pathogens.

### Africa

Africa is the second-largest producer of peanuts, and this crop is a key economic and food resource for many rural communities. African production is mainly concentrated in Nigeria, Sudan, and Senegal.

- **Nigeria:** Nigeria is Africa's leading peanut producer, with crops primarily located in the north of the country, in regions such as Kano and Kaduna. Peanuts are a vital resource for the rural economy, as they can grow in poor soils with limited water availability. However, production is often hampered by disease and pest issues, which significantly reduce yields.



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- **Senegal:** In Senegal, peanuts are one of the main export crops. Production is concentrated in the Kaolack and Thies regions, where the crop is well integrated into local agricultural systems. The country has a long tradition of peanut production and is moving toward a more sustainable cultivation model with the introduction of integrated disease management practices and varieties adapted to climate change.

### America

The United States, Brazil, and Argentina are the main peanut-producing countries in the Americas, each with specific characteristics related to the agricultural context and market.

- **United States:** The United States is one of the world's largest exporters of peanuts, with cultivation mainly concentrated in southeastern states such as Georgia, Alabama, and Florida. The country uses highly mechanized and advanced cultivation systems, with a strong emphasis on quality and food safety. The varieties grown in the United States are often selected for their organoleptic and nutritional qualities, making this market particularly competitive for value-added products.
- **Argentina:** Argentina is one of the main peanut producers and exporters in South America. Crops are primarily concentrated in the provinces of Córdoba and San Luis. Argentine peanuts are prized for their quality and are exported to numerous markets, including the European Union and Southeast Asia. Production is supported by advanced agricultural practices and continuous research to improve varieties and increase the sustainability of cultivation.

### Italy

#### Sicily

Sicily is one of Italy's most promising regions for peanut cultivation due to its Mediterranean climate, marked by long, hot summers and a good availability of light, well-drained soils, ideal for this crop. The main production areas are located in the provinces of Caltanissetta, Agrigento, and Trapani, where many producers have successfully experimented with organic peanut farming systems. The crop benefits from drip irrigation to ensure a consistent water supply, especially during the hottest, driest periods of the year, which improves product quality and reduces the risks of fungal diseases.

#### Calabria

In Calabria, peanut cultivation is primarily concentrated in the Gioia Tauro Plain and some areas of the Cosenza province. The climate in these areas, with high summer temperatures and low rainfall, is suitable for peanut growth. In this region, peanut farming is often associated with small producers who use sustainable agriculture techniques, limiting pesticide use and promoting crop rotation with other vegetables to maintain soil fertility and reduce pathogen pressure. Calabrian peanuts are appreciated for their short supply chain, which allows for more rigorous control over traceability.

#### Apulia

In Apulia, peanut cultivation is mainly found in the flat areas of the Tavoliere and the Bari province. The dry climate and sandy soil typical of these zones are favorable for peanut cultivation, allowing the plant to grow without excess moisture and thereby reducing the risk of root rot. Apulia, known for its tradition in cultivating other Mediterranean crops like wheat and vegetables, has seen increased interest in peanuts as a diversification crop in recent years. Some producers are experimenting with disease-resistant varieties, selected to adapt to the Apulian climate and offer high yields.



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### **Lazio and Campania**

In addition to the main southern regions, small peanut-growing initiatives have been started in Lazio and Campania, particularly in parts of the Latina and Caserta provinces. In these regions, producers have launched experimental projects to test the feasibility of peanut cultivation in a more temperate climate compared to the south. These projects are generally small-scale and aim to produce peanuts for local consumption and niche markets. Preliminary results show promising potential, but cultivation requires careful management of irrigation and soil conditions to compensate for the less ideal climate compared to southern regions.

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