The oLIVECLIMA project is an effort to guide the agricultural sector in order to face current challenges by converting olive cultivation to a climate change management tool.

In 120 olive groves in 3 farmer groups (E.A.S. Peza in Heraklion, E.A.S. Mirabello in Lassithi, and F.G. Nileas in Messinia), olive cultivation practices are applied that contribute to:

**Climate change mitigation:**
- by reducing greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions
- by increasing carbon dioxide capture

**Adaptation to new climate conditions:**
- by increasing fertility and water retention in olive groves soil
- by strengthening the economic and environmental sustainability of production

The cultivation practices that will be applied for 2012-2017 are:

**Practices for capturing organic matter**
- derived from either the process of olive growing or olive oil production, in order to return to its groves by:
  - Recycling the wood produced from tree pruning as mulch / nutrient material
  - Re-use of olive oil mill by-products through land application, either directly or after composting

**Practical increase of CO₂ capture**
- from the atmosphere to plants through photosynthesis and "storage" in plant tissue and soil by:
  - Modification of olive grove flora
  - Modification of olive trees pruning

**Conservation practices of organic matter**, through the zero tillage for limiting erosion and destruction of organic matter, and improving the soil water storage capacity.

These practices contribute to long-term "storage" of carbon dioxide in the soil in the form of an increasing percentage of organic matter, improving fertility (e.g. by better retention of water and fertilizers) and reducing greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions.