Agroecology-based Local Agri-food Systems (ALAs) - Alimentta

Workshop 7: Territorial approaches for the agroecological transition

#AEEUForum2023

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About Alimentta

Think Tank to accelerate the transition towards sustainable food systems in Spain

10 Founding members from several research institutions

>29 collaborators

Community of practice of >200 entities
About Alimentta

Supporting the agroecological transition at the local and regional level while influencing national and European policies.

- **Co-production and dissemination** of quality, open-access, evidence-based knowledge
- **Stakeholder mobilization** and articulation around **territorial projects** linked to the food system transformation (e.g. ALAs, Living Labs)
- **Advocacy** and **lobbying** initiatives
Agroecology-based Local Agri-Food Systems (ALAs)

Key features

- **Territorialized**, sustainable food systems that integrate agroecological principles throughout all links of the food chain (from cradle to table).
- Involves the establishment of a **legal and political framework** favorable to the agroecological transition.
- Requires the collaboration of local stakeholders in a **two-fold cooperation strategy**: upstream and downstream. Promotes complementarity.
- **Short food and supply chains**. Involves direct producer-consumer interaction.
- Needs to be both **ecologically and economically viable** for producers.

Main challenges

- Existing initiatives are **fragmented, lack interconnection and fail to sustain over time**.
- Lack of professionalization in the sector.
- The **productive sector is underrepresented** in governance schemes.
- Cooperative markets or eco-markets face **shortages in infrastructure or staff (often rely on voluntary work)**.
- Lack of public support and incentives.
- Debate among short or hybrid supply chains.


CASE STUDY 1

**Location:** Córdoba (Montilla, Villanueva de Córdoba, Santa Cruz)

**Year:** 2016-2018 (Pilot project) and upscaling (ongoing)

**Main objective:** multiplication, transformation, insertion and market development of *traditional wheat varieties* for the development of an ALA in the region of Andalusia

**Highlight:** benefits of traditional wheat varieties for regional mitigation and adaptation to climate change, soil fertility and biodiversity

**Stakeholders involved:** Laboratory for the History of (US), Alimenta, Biodiversity International, Superior Council of Scientific Research (CSIC), Ecovalia, Andalusian Public Foundation for Biosanitary Research of Eastern Andalusia (FIBAO), Andalusian Network of Seeds, University of Granada, University of Jaén, Laboratory for the History of Agrosystems (University Pablo Olavide), University of Sevilla, Buenas Migas, María Diezma Bakery, La Artesa, La Espelta y la Sal, Spiga Negra, Povedano y Ruiz SL, Wild Seeds, Farmers of the Andalusian Region
TRIGO-LAB INNOVA

SEED REPRODUCTION COMPANIES → FARMERS AND COOPERATIVES → ECO-MILLS → LOCAL BAKERIES AND PASTA INDUSTRIES → CONSUMERS → LOCAL RETAILERS
TRIGO-LAB INNOVA

Environmental Benefits
- Carbon Sequestration
- Climate adaptation
- Biodiversity Conservation
- Soil Fertility

Nutritional Benefits
- Less gluten
- Higher protein concentration
- Recovery of traditional flavours
- Recovery of ecological knowledge

Cultural Benefits
- Recovery of traditional flavours
- Reinforces link with the territory
- Favors small-scale, local artisan industries

Economic Benefits
- More cost-effective production
- Reinforces local commercial chains

Challenges
- Lack of understanding of traditional wheat varieties among producers or manufacturers
- Shortages in seed production or inaccessibility to them, lack of certification schemes
- Lack of specialised equipment to operate in small-scale plots
- Instability in annual production
- Flours more difficult to process due to lack of gluten
- Lack of demand - wheat (due to gluten) is increasingly unpopular among consumers

Enablers
- Suitability for small-scale, artisan industries
- Living Lab approach to foster collaboration
- Nutritional value and link to cultural heritage suitable to open new market niches
- Links to complementary projects: biodistricts

Full report available [here](#)
CASE STUDY 2

LOCATION: Cuevas del Becerro (Málaga)
YEAR: 2023-2025

MAIN OBJECTIVE: The co-creation of catering options for a local school and a day-care center based on local, agro ecological products.

HIGHLIGHT: Solid governance and social cooperation schemes to enable the articulation of a local-scale ALA.

GASTRONOMIC INNOVATION

Living Lab approach merging Design Thinking Strategies in the governance and co-creation cycle
### GASTRONOMIC INNOVATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environmental Benefits</th>
<th>Nutritional Benefits</th>
<th>Cultural Benefits</th>
<th>Economic Benefits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduction of food chain's carbon footprint</td>
<td>Benefits of mediterranean diet</td>
<td>Recovery of traditional recipes and flavours</td>
<td>Rural revitalization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Production adapted to ecosystem's natural cycles</td>
<td>Dietary options adapted to vulnerable groups</td>
<td>Recovery of traditional ecological knowledge</td>
<td>Capacitation of local farmers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biodiversity Conservation</td>
<td>Reinforces link with the territory</td>
<td>Upscaling potential</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Soil Fertility</td>
<td>Inter-sectoral cooperation</td>
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</tbody>
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### Challenges
- The implication of regional farmers to provide additional ingredients for local recipes
- Normative/legislative aspects for project upscaling: building up a full school menu
- The development of a commercial strategy that integrates costs of all links of the food supply chain
- The set-up of a compost municipal network that minimizes the use of external inputs

### Enablers
- Solid, pre-existing associative tissue, municipal support and atmosphere of trust
- Leadership of Group Extiercol (local association with well-established history)
- Municipal scale allows for testing and implementation of innovation
ANDALUSIAN BIODISTRICTS

CASE STUDY 3

**Location:** Andalusia (regional scale)

**Year:** 2021-2024

**Objective:** to establish the right *regulatory, social and economic framework* for the set-up, upscaling and replication of ALAs in the Andalusian Region

**Highlight:** strong upscaling potential

**Stakeholders involved:** Habitat4, AISEC, ALimentta, Andalusian Agricultural and Fisheries Management Agency, Different departments of Andalusian Regional Government, Local farmers, Local industries, NGOs, Social collectives, Consumer Groups (to be defined)
# Andalusian Biodistricts

## Roadmap

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consolidation of Promoter Group</strong></td>
<td>- Identification and validation of the promoter group (overall coordination)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stakeholder Mapping and Articulation</strong></td>
<td>- Action Plan for the Creation of Biodistricts in Andalucia</td>
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<td><strong>Training and Capacity Building</strong></td>
<td>- Creation of six guidance materials</td>
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<td>- Organisation and coordination of 16 territorial workshops</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Set Up of Pilot Project</strong></td>
<td>- Selection of location</td>
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<td>- Definition of biodistrict boundaries</td>
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<td>- Mapping of relevant stakeholders</td>
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<td><strong>Territorial Dynamisation</strong></td>
<td>- Commercial encounters</td>
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<td>- Promotional events</td>
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<td>- Monitorization and follow up of emerging collaboration pacts</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Challenges

- Administrative blockages resulting from intergovernmental interaction (multiple levels and departments involved)
- Ensuring transparency and equal access to decision making to dissolve concentrations of power

### Enablers

- Integrative, replicable governance scheme to a variety of products and local contexts
- Presence of exciting initiatives, networks and projects to promote synergies and upscaling