

ACTIVITIES

**PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOP
“AGROECOLOGY, FOOD, HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING IN THE SPANISH
TERRITORIES, FOR THE CURRENT
AND FUTURE GENERATIONS”**

MÁLAGA MAY THE 12TH -13TH, 2023





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The workshop was organized taking advantage of the framework of **XXX SEAE's Technical Conference** and at the beginning of a weekend, to ensure the maximum participation as possible and multiply the impact.

It was organized as scheduled, on May the 12th and 13th, 2023, at Universidad de Málaga's facilities (<https://www.uma.es/>).

The **participatory workshop "Agroecology, food, health and well-being in the Spanish territories, for the current and future generations"** aimed to contribute to fairer, safer, healthier, more inclusive and more resilient food systems in Spain, as a real option for current and future farmers.

37 people participated in the Workshop, including farmers (young and female farmers) and other operators involved in the food system, farmers' organizations' representatives, consumers' organizations, retailers, restaurants, tour-operators, decision makers, technicians and researchers, environmental organizations and nutrition and health experts.

With the aim of enhancing networking of local stakeholders, as well as with different initiatives that share common goals and needs at National and International level, several experiences of young farmers and of elderly farmers that have managed to get generational renewal for their projects through their descendants were presented and discussed.

After being able to share experiences and concerns from all the different points of view, the main outcome was that **there is an urgent need for collaboration either in the definition and implementation of local strategies, as well as national and European policies.**

Individual stakeholders alone feel overwhelmed by the dimension of the current social, economic and environmental situation, but networking helps to make everyone part of the solution instead of feeling blamed or cheated, hope and solutions start being raised. All participants agreed on the need of tools to move towards a real governance and to rebuild relationships in communities and scale them to broader levels.

The Organic Districts' Strategy was identified as a possible pathway.

Participatory-bottom up processes and strategies that involve local stakeholders but also enable collaborative learning with other national and international initiatives through the Organic Districts networks IN NER and GAOD have proved to work in more than 1300 territories.



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All the activities focused on the difficulties faced by farmers and barriers for youth, and specially young women, to enter the farming sector and the responses offered through the agroecological approaches.

The discussion on the solutions was introduced by presenting successful cases of strategies of shared responsibilities from local communities.

The first activities took place at the Universidad de Málaga on Friday May the 12th.



At midday there was a show cooking conducted by Rafael Jiménez, the cook from Karuna School (<https://www.espaciokaruna.com/>) and Luz y Tierra (<https://luzytierra.es/>). He explained and showed to the participants how he communicates, to the different consumers that visit their store or attend his shows, the importance of following balanced and sustainable diets based on organic local products. He rose many of the most relevant barriers to the agroecological transition that he had identified. Some of these barriers had been identified while designing and running his own project, and others he had learned them from some of his food providers or his clients. This activity raised the lack of information that most of the population has on the real consequences of the current globalized agroindustrial food system and its contribution to global warming, loss of biodiversity, soil, water and air pollution and health problems in human beings. It also emphasized the importance of being aware of how different is the effort invested by a farmer that really takes care of the common and natural resources compared to someone that simply produces low quality food externalizing costs to the society by overextracting and overexploiting soil, water resources and polluting. At the same time, he provided official data on these matters and explained several regional agroecological initiatives, and he explained it all in a very dynamic and communicatively entertaining way, which at the same time was a good example of how to raise awareness avoiding leaving the audience in shock or demoralized. This activity was initially scheduled for Saturday the 13th in the afternoon at the Guadalorce Market in the center of Malaga's city, but when the possibility to have Rafa kicking off the workshop with his positive messages became an option, it was decided to move it and it was worth moving it.



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The workshop continued with a Round Table followed by an open debate, in the afternoon, the issue was "Agroecological strategies of sharing responsibilities within local communities to ensure viability of small and medium farms and generational renewal". This activity was conducted by Concepción Fabeiro, president of SEAE and designed and supervised by Ecoherencia (<https://www.ecoherencia.es/>), a team of experts in dynamic workshops and participatory processes.

The speakers in the Round Table were:

- José Antonio Rico, a representative of a regional organic farmer's association that's been actively promoting the inclusion of women and young people into the farming sector and also a farmer himself.
 - Esther Molina, a young woman farmer.
 - Salvatore Basile, representative of the Organic Districts (Ecoregions/Biodistrict/ECOTERRITORIES) approach, recently recognised as strategic processes by the European Commission.
 - Marga Jiménez, from Guadalhorce Ecológico, an example of other successful cases Territorialised Food System from Málaga, Spain.
 - Manolo Zapata, a regional organic farmer that has managed to get generational replacement by his daughter Manoli Zapata, but who unfortunately couldn't attend the workshop due to conciliation issues.



After the presentation of all the experiences, an open debate with participants took place and all the proposals were gathered and included in the Report attached.





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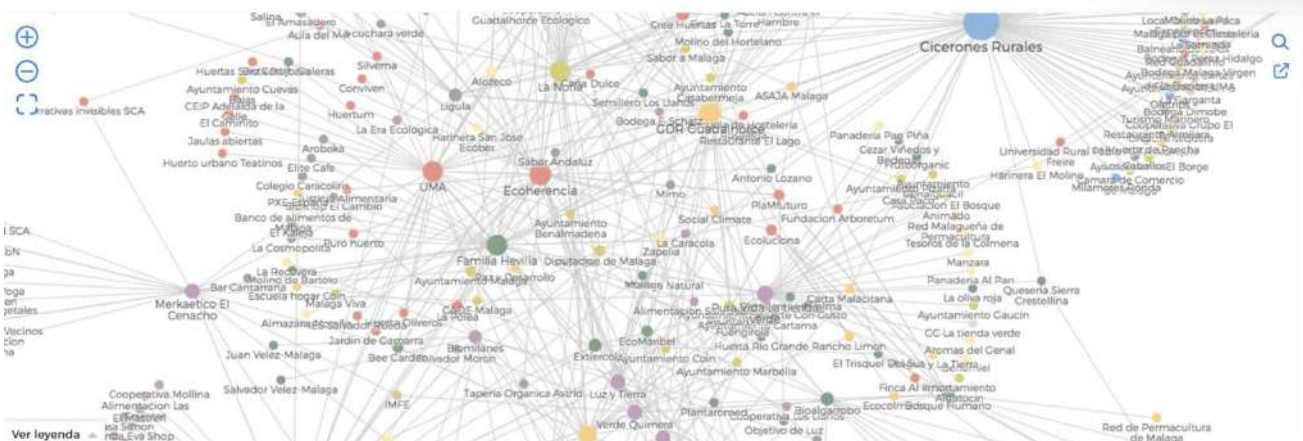
Guided tours and joint reflection on site: May 13th 2023, from 9.00 h to 14.30 h. Málaga City.

The first Guided Visit took place from 9:30 to 11:00 h and the participants visited the community space and urban garden El Caminito (<http://elcaminito.org/>). The land is owned by the municipality, and managed by the association El Caminito through open assemblies. The main purpose of the project is raising awareness on environmental fragility and how we can reduce our impacts. The main topics of interest are food and energy sovereignty, permaculture, the rehabilitation and public use of abandoned urban spaces, citizen management of the public and community development, the promotion of the culture of the commons, etc.



11:30 h The participants visited Guadalhorce's Organic Agroecological Market in Paseo de Reding -La Malagueta (<https://www.guadalhorceecologico.org/menu/18/Calendario%20del%20EcoMercado>). Which was already identified as the most active Agroecological network in Málaga's province.

Redes agroecológicas provincia de Málaga - febrero 2022





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A part from the 37 attendants to the activities, the 6 speakers of the round table, Rafa Jiménez and 27 people of the Guadalhorce Ecológico (<http://guadalhorceecologico.com/>) initiative participated in drafting the conclusions of the workshop.

This activity was conducted by a team of experts in dynamic workshops and participatory processes.



GOALS AND CONCLUSIONS

The main goals that were achieved were:

- A. The promotion of networking of local stakeholders as well as with different initiatives that share common goals and needs at National and International level.
- B. The identification and promotion of local strategies that involve local stakeholders through participatory-bottom up processes.
- C. A participatory review of successful experiences identified at local, national and international level.

The Organic Districts' Strategy was identified as a possible pathway.

Participatory-bottom up processes and strategies that involve local stakeholders but also enable collaborative learning with other national and international initiatives through the Organic Districts networks IN NER and GAOD have proved to work in more than 1300 territories.

FACTORS IDENTIFIED AS DETERMINING FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE PROJECT

1. Production must be based, at least, on the principles of organic farming, protecting current and future generations from toxins and ensuring the resilience of the agroecosystems and life itself.
2. Involvement of all levels of stakeholders in planning, defining and implementing local organic food strategies.
3. Continuous dynamization and coordination of the participatory processes to ensure the involvement of all stakeholders.
4. Transparency of the information and data and true accountability of costs and benefits.

LIMITATIONS AND OBSTACLES IDENTIFIED

1. Lack of awareness and transparency on real information and data about the vulnerability of the current agrifood systems.
2. Massive misinformation and greenwashing from the agroindustry lobbies.
3. Skepticism, disillusionment and low confidence in the possibility of change from a significant part of the population.

STRATEGIES TO OVERCOME THE OBSTACLES



GOALS AND CONCLUSIONS

1. Improve transparency and access to real non-biased data about the shortcomings and perversion of the current food system that prioritizes the profit of an already economically privileged minority over the common good.
2. Design and implement in a participative way a road map to ensure access to information by the local population and to encourage them to reconnect with their neighbors.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EU DECISION MAKERS

1. Ensure that public funds are used to provide public goods. Make sure that CAP funds are used to accompany farmers in the transition to organic farming, positively discriminating small and medium family farms and to fulfil the European Green Deal.
2. Guarantee the application of the existing regulatory framework, defending those farmers and companies that are complying with the law. Avoiding the comparative harm of having to coexist with fraudulent companies that externalize environmental and social costs. And, also, protecting resources for the current and future generations of farmers.
3. Secure access to land, farming rights and farming resources to young farmers and women. This means, abolishing measures that have given privileges to the already privileged, as for example CAP's historical rights and ensuring positive discrimination of small and medium family farms run by young and/or female farmers.
4. Apply measures to improve the ergonomics of the tools and machinery used in small farms and ensure their suitability to the anatomy of women.
5. Review the way in which the AWU (Annual Work Unit) is calculated at the level of each member state and region. Ensure that diversified farms, which manufacture their own inputs, transform their products and sell them directly or in short circuit are not negatively discriminated against large estates.
6. Support and promote participatory and collaborative processes such as Organic Districts.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
CONTACT:
INTERNATIONAL@AGROECOLOGIA.NET**



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