

REPORT

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

MÁLAGA MAY THE 12TH -13TH, 2023



REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF THE AGROECOLOGICAL INITIATIVE LAUNCHED BY YOUNG PEOPLE

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. There were 37 participants, 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.

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.

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.

REPORT

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

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
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