Support Facility for Innovation & Knowledge exchange
EIP-AGRI

EU CAP Network cross-visit

Organic farming supply and value chain optimisation

Projects information

28-29 June 2023 – Tuscany, Italy

Funded by
the European Union

Host projects

Project title: Cereals Diversity for adaptation to climate change and its economic valorisation – third phase: from seed to food

Country, Region: Italy, Tuscany. The GO is located in the Tuscan region, and its components are located in different geographical areas of the region: the Florentine hills, the plains area of the Val di Chiana, the coastal area near Piombino, and the hills in the province of Pisa. The lead partner is located in Scandicci (FI).

Start and end date of the project: 01.01.2023 - 31.12.2024

Project objectives and activities:

- Increase cultivated diversity on farms by growing organic heterogeneous material (OHM)
- Foster commercialization of OHM, through the development of a dedicated logo, a specific label narrative, and a reference portal for farmers and citizens.
- Increase the quality of cereal products based on OHM.
- Support the digital transition of the farms involved through the adoption of the SeedLinked system.
- Increase public awareness of the importance of consuming OHM-based products, including as a tool to improve their diets and public health.

Aspects of the value chain that are covered in the project:

- seed production;
- rain production;
- processing into flour, pasta, bread and other baked goods through collaboration with local mills;
- collaboration with organic stores, pizzerias, bakeries for marketing;
- direct sale on the farm;
- promotion of products through the participation in local markets

Challenges tackled by the project: economic viability and sustainability of production for farmers; Networking and cooperation; Biodiversity.

Project results:
Involvement of 30 citizens during a public tasting event of products made with OHM. The tasting was evaluated using the Seedlinked application, which allowed for immediate results that were commented on at the end of the trial.This enabled the project partners to explain to a non-specialist audience the importance of biodiversity. The farmers involved will think of a range of new baked goods to be made with OHM flours during the project.

Project related website: rsr.bio/progetti/cereali-resilienti-3.0/ https://rsr.bio/progetti/

Participating representatives:

- Bettina Bussi, Advisor on technical, economic, environmental and/or social dimensions for farmers/ foresters; Innovation support agent - Rete Semi Rurali
- Ricardo Riccardo Bocci; Innovation broker, Director of Rete Semi Rurali
- Rosario Floriddia, Farmer
- Sara Passerini
- Barbara Pastore

Project title: VARITOSCAN - Climate | Enhancement of renewal crops in Tuscan environments in anticipation of future climate change

Country, Region: Italy, Tuscany.

Start and end date of the project: 2018 – 2021

Project objectives and activities:
Identify and provide farmers with crops suitable for renewal species selected to ensure:

- productivity and better quality characteristics;
- adequate income for farmers;
- characteristics of adaptation to the different pedoclimatic environments of Tuscany;
- agronomic management with low energy input of a biological type;
- reduction of any irrigation supplies;
- resilience to climate change;
- adequate root system to guarantee a structuring effect on the soil. The chosen crops are corn (Zea mais) and (Panicum miliaceum), optimal for the renewal of the land and able to provide valid alternative foods for subjects intolerant to gluten.

Aspects of the value chain that are covered in the project:

- productivity and better seeds quality;
- adequate income for farmers;
- characteristics of adaptation to the different pedoclimatic environments of Tuscany;
- agronomic management with low energy input of a biological type;
- adequate root system to guarantee a structuring effect on the soil, etc.

Challenges tackled by the project: economic viability and sustainability of production for farmers; Networking and cooperation; Climate change.

Project results:
The main expected result is to make available to farmers varieties of maize and millet to be used as renewal crops within an agronomic model based on rotations and low energy input which guarantees the farmer adequate profitability. This will produce direct benefits for the environment and for consumers who will be able to use products selected for their high nutritional and organoleptic qualities and characterized by a strong territorial connotation.

Project related website: http://www.climaesostenibilita.it/progetto-varitoscan-2018-2021/

Participating representatives: Luigi Pati, Farmer Di Carlo Boni Brivio, farmer.

Participating projects

Project title: SI-RIPARTE Rapid, Innovative and Participatory digital systems for the integration of small/medium-size farms in the Marche region into global organic supply chains.

Country, Region: Italy, Marche region, Ancona

Start and end date of the project: 01.11.2022 - 31.10.2025.

Project objectives and activities:
The overall objective of the project SI-RIPARTE is to deploy and test a prototype that enables the rapid and cost-effective digitization of farming practices. This will (i) improve the environmental and economic performance of the farms itself; (ii) ensure the quality and authenticity of production. The prototype will be based on a low-cost positioning system, which can also be installed on board tractors and older farm vehicles, coupled with cloud architectures that will allow integration with supply chain applications (digital book; DSS; blockchain, etc.).
Aspect(s) of the value chain that are covered in the project: mainly the production phase (i.e. production of organic wheat to be used along the organic pasta supply chain).

Challenges tackled by the project:
Optimisation of production processes,; Economic viability and sustainability of production for farmers; Climate and resource management; Networking and cooperation

Project results:
The SI-RIPARTE prototype is a tool which allow small farms to digitalise their activities with a limit amount of financing resources. Also the tool is easy to use for farmers and does not require any specific expertise.

Project related website(s), social media, videos, press articles, other communication materials:
https://www.innovarurale.it/it/pei-agri/gruppi-operativi/bancadati-go-pei/sistemi-digitali-rapidi-innovativi-e-partecipati

Participating representatives:

- Francesco Solfanelli - researcher, Università Politecnica delle Marche (Ancona) - D3A, research organisation
- Alberto Zannini - advisor on technical, economic, environmental and/or social dimensions for farmers/ foresters, Montebello Cooperativa Agrobiologica, Farmers' organisation / association

Project title: Partnership for smart organic olive farms and innovation products (Smart Olive Farm)

Country, Region: Greece. The Operational Group is located in Greece, mainly in Western Greece Region (Etoloakarnania Regional Unit) and in Central Macedonia region (Halkidiki Regional Unit). The Smart Olive Farm coordinating partner is located in Messolonghi, Etoloakarnania.

Start and end date of the project: 25.01.2023 - 31.08.2025.

Project objectives and activities:
The Table Olive is one of the main exportable agricultural products. Veganism and the consumption of Biofunctional foods have evolved into a mainstream lifestyle trend. The use of state-of-the-art technologies & the application of innovative practices, we expect to yield a serious improvement in competitiveness & farm results, due to: Increasing the quantity and improving the quality of primary production.

Challenges tackled by the project:
Optimisation of production processes,; Economic viability and sustainability of production for farmers; Climate and resource management; Networking and cooperation; Biodiversity

Project results:
The implementation of the project started with the following Tasks:

- Design of Good Cultivation Practices & use of innovative technologies, in organic olive crops.
- Design and implementation of cutting edge technologies on farms
- Design of traceability procedures

Project related website(s), social media, videos, press articles, other communication materials:
https://www.hellasbionet.gr/eng; https://www.hellasbionet.gr/content/52/organic-olive-oilolives-/eng

Participating representatives

- Gerasimos Karandinos - advisor on technical, economic, environmental and/or social dimensions for farmers/ foresters, Hellas Bio Net, Advisory organisation (on technical, economic, environmental and/or social dimensions for farmers/ foresters)
- Vangelis Kousoulas - farmer/farm manager or farm worker, Agricultural Cooperative of Organic Olive Growers, Farmers' organisation / association

Project title: Dynamization of the value chain from the cultivation of organic cereal in the Llanada Alavesa, its transformation into flour and production of organic food for distribution in short circuit

Country, Region: Spain, Basque Country, Álava-Araba, Vitoria-Gasteiz

Start and end date of the project: 24.09.2021; 31.12.2023x

Project objectives:
The project works in all the links of the value chain: agricultural production (three agricultural partners), transformation into flour (a stone mill has been acquired for community use), transformation (two artisan bakery partners) and final consumer (opinion of consumers, flour and processed products is being tested)

Project activities:
The objective of this operational group is to test the implementation of a new value chain for organic cereals in the Llanada Alavesa, transforming the flour, and marketing it as raw material for making bread, pastries or pizzas, and directly to people. final consumers, in short and local circuit, which allows generating a new business model where farmers collaborate with other links in the chain to generate economic activities in the region.

Challenges tackled by the project:
Economic viability and sustainability of production for farmers; Networking and cooperation

Project results:
Organic wheat flour grown in the Llanada, and consumed in short circuit

Project related website(s), social media, videos, press articles, other communication materials:
No website, social media indicated.

Participating representatives:
- Noemi Salazar Gómez, Innovation support agent and/ or innovation broker
- Monika Irazola, Rural entrepreneur (other than farmer or forester)
- David Perez de Unzueta Martinez de Alegrí, Farmer/farm manager or farm worker

Project title: TERRACTIVA. Support OG for new entrants in agroecology

Country, Region: Spain, Galicia, region in the NW of Spain. Our different partners belong to several cities across the region.

Start and end date of the project: 01.09.2022; 30.09.2024

Project objectives:
The promotion of short food supply chain viable projects. These projects must be aware of their responsibilities regarding sustainability, socio-economic challenges, as well as other challenges and their resilience. New commers in Europe are demonstrated to be aware of this problematic and we aspire to characterize the situation in our region specifically. Furthermore, provide new farmers of knowledge and enrich the present ones will lead to an ameliorated chain and the improvement sector.

Project activities:
TERRACTIVA is the OG launched in Galicia aiming to support new entrants (NE) into agroecological farming projects. The study of the difficulties of these NE will allow us to synthesise a guiding itinerary for the upcoming ones so that the process will be more bearable. Furthermore, we aim to help facilitators (technicians) with a platform with geographical information of available land and its characteristics. A further objective is to foster the creation of a peer to peer group through wich farmers and new entrants could colaborate and create a net of knowledge.

Challenges tackled by the project:
Economic viability and sustainability of production for farmers; Networking and cooperation; Other

Project results:
The adaptation of a guide for technicians based on current research results that would help new entrants overcome the barriers that a traditional incorporation into farming (daughters/sons inheriting the family farm/business) would not imply.

Project related website(s), social media, videos, press articles, other communication materials:
https://terractiva.es/ - in process (not functioning)

Participating representatives:
- Guillermina Fernández-Villar, Civil servant
- Sergio Boado, Farmer/farm manager or farm worker
- María Elena López Colmenero, Advisor on technical, economic, environmental and/or social dimensions for farmers/ foresters; Innovation support agent and/ or innovation broker, Fundación Juana de Vega, Innovation Support Service

Project title: Production and processing of organic and conventional cabbage, investigating and developing innovative zero-residue technologies for obtaining sauerkraut juice powder and using it in the creation of new products with high added value

Country, Region: Latvia, Jelgava

Start and end date of the project: 08.05.2019; 31.01.2022

Project objectives: Food processing

Project activities:
Spray-drying of sauerkraut juice is perspective. Horizontal spray-dryer advantage - technology without carriers. For the vertical spray dryer carier is necessary: maltodextrin is beneficial for cosmetics , whereas starch for food. Two innovative types of food products were obtained and studied:
- sauerkraut juice powder
- sauerkraut juice concentrate

The potential of the studied products in the production of food and cosmetics is proven, but necessary further research on technology adaptation and utilization of unwanted compounds
separation, which gives new research directions.

Challenges tackled by the project:
Optimisation of production processes,; Economic viability and sustainability of production for farmers; Climate and resource management; Networking and cooperation; Biodiversity

Project results:
Yes, we developed technology based on circular economy. By-product as sauerkraut juice was processed to two industrial raw materials- sauerkraut juice powder and sauerkraut juice concentrate and further tested in different applications in food and cosmetics.

Project related website(s), social media, videos, press articles, other communication materials:
https://www.llu.lv/lv/projekti/apstiprinatie-projekti/2019/biologisko-un-konvencionalo-kapostu-razosana-un-parstrade

Participating representatives:
- Zanda Kruma, Researcher, Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies Research organisation
- Liene Jansone, Researcher, Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies, Research organisation

Project title: Baskets of local products from Međimurje Region

Country, Region: Croatia, Međimurje Region, City of Čakovec

Start and end date of the project: 01.01.2021; 30.06.2023

Project objectives: delivery, sales, marketing, human resources

Project activities:
The main objective of the project is development of an existing short food supply chain "The best from Međimurje County" through the increase in sale thanks to the new "products" introduced - 2500 pieces of baskets and gift packages that are sold intensively in different packaging. The packages contains varied products of the members of Operational Group "The Best from Međimurje County" and are already a recognizable symbol of the Međimurje region. End users - farmers have enhanced the sale of their products and thus contribute to the stabilization of their business on the local market.

Challenges tackled by the project:
Economic viability and sustainability of production for farmers; Networking and cooperation

Project results:
Organic wheat flour grown in the Llanada, and consumed in short circuit

Project related website(s), social media, videos, press articles, other communication materials:
https://mz.najboljelokalno.com/
https://www.facebook.com/medimurskistacun

Participating representatives:
- Valentina Hažić, Farmer/farm manager or farm worker; Rural entrepreneur (other than farmer or forester)

Project title: Bone-dry grain / LEANDRY

Country, Region: Sweden, 150km west of Stockholm /Arlanda airport and closest city is Arboga 15km from the farm Hasta

Start and end date of the project: 05.05.2022; 30.03.2025

Project objectives:
Handling of the harvest from the field to the farm-storage and then processed to consumer ready products.

Project activities:
To make bone-dry grain we do not need hot air. In this project we are after a new way to take away the water in the drying air, so it take away the needed watercontent in the harvested grain or any seeds.

Challenges tackled by the project:
Optimisation of production processes,; Economic viability and sustainability of production for farmers; Climate and resource management; Networking and cooperation; Biodiversity; Waste management

Project results:
Yes, we have one new unit to test later this year.

Project related website(s), social media, videos, press articles, other communication materials:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pgQILqayfI&t=4s

Participating representatives:

- Kurt Hansson, Farmer/farm manager or farm worker; Innovation support agent and/ or innovation broker, SERO Swedish Renewable Energies Organization
- Stefan Schörling, Farmer/farm manager or farm worker; Rural entrepreneur, Ecologic farmers in Sweden, Farmers' organisation / association