



Global
Alliance
Organic
Districts



International
Network of
Eco
Regions



PROCEEDINGS



ODC
ORGANIC DISTRICTS
WORLD CONGRESS
2024
世界有机示范区大会

from July 29 to August 2, 2024
Idanha-a-Nova – Portugal – Europe

2nd Organic Districts World Congress 2024 – Idanha-a-Nova, Portugal

PROCEEDINGS

Edited by: Salvatore Basile

Authors: Ângela Abreu, Luísa Almeida, Ana Luísa Alves, Gonçalo Amorim, Rafael André, Rodrigo Ayoub, Marie Bartz, Raffaele Basile, Salvatore Basile, Alvaro Beleza, Ryan Anthony Monang Bestre, Emilio Buonomo, Pedro Casimiro, Giuseppe Cilento, Miguel Carrasco, Jorge Cancela, Te-Chun Chen, Jennifer Chang, Ignazio Cirronis, António José Correia, Koen Deckx, Adriano De Vita, Pavle Djorjevic, Maria Inês Ferreira, Maria Margarida Ferreira, David Gargiulo, Jostein Hertwig, Armindo Jacinto, Ove D. Jakobsen, Zhang Jiawang, Bernadette San Juan, Sundeep Srinivas Kamath, Rui Lagoa, Alain Legout, Joaquim Bernardino Lopes, Tiago Lourenço, David Machado, Miyoshi Satoko, Samia Maamer, Pimenta Machado, Ana Música, Karen Mapusua, Chiara Medda, Manuel Neto, Custódio De Sousa Oliveira, Giacomo Packer, Jael Palhas, Margarida Palma, Custódio De Sousa Oliveira, Dijana Posavec, Patrizia Pugliese, Victor José Freixinho Brilhante Sobral, Divaldo Rezend, Joaquim Rodrigues, Aina Calafat Rogers, Verónica Santillán, Amber Sciligo, Juan Pablo Sciurano, Emilia Tri Setyowati, Ivana Simić, Marco Souto, Pedro Teiga, Peter Toth, Monika Tothova, Kesang Tshomo, Alberto Umbelino, Yoshikuni Watanabe, Guy Singh-Watson, Chin Huei Wen, Cesare Zanasi, Darko Znaor, Nicolaus Zouros.

First edition published in July 2024

by Bio-Distretto Cilento Association APS

Via Serre, 39 - 84052 – Ceraso (Salerno) – Italy

© 2024 IN.N.E.R. Association

All rights reserved.

ISBN 978-88-947284-4-6

TABLE OF CONTENT

INTRODUCTION.....	4
HOSTING ORGANIZATION	6
SUMMARY PROGRAM OF ALL THE EVENTS.....	7
2 ND ORGANIC DISTRICTS WORLD CONGRESS - PROGRAM DETAILS.....	9
OPENING REMARKS	13
MESSAGE OF GREATINGS.....	13
CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES.....	14
KEYNOTE SPEECHES.....	15
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD CULTURE.....	30
CONGRESS TRACKS CONTRIBUTIONS	41
Track 1: Organic Districts’ Integrated Management, Planning, Governance and Policies.....	41
Track 2: Organic Districts’ Outputs	52
Track 3: Organic Districts’ Social Impacts	60
POSTERS.....	65

INTRODUCTION

The International network of Eco Regions (IN.N.E.R.) and the Global Alliance of Organic Districts (GAOD) annually propose the International Summit and every five years the International Congress.

The first Organic Districts World Congress was held in 2019 in Monsanto - Idanha-a-Nova - Portugal, with the participation of territories from different parts of the world, engaged in the development of organic local food systems and healthy diets. The Congress was promoted within the framework of “FISAS - International Forum on Territories Relevant to Sustainable Food Systems”, a platform of major events on sustainable development. In addition to the World Congress of Organic Districts, the World Forum on Rural Innovation, the International Seminar on World Agricultural Heritage (GIAHS) and the Workshop on Local Public Policies for Food Sustainability also took place simultaneously. It emerged the need to support policies at local, national and international, favoring local sustainable food systems, reinforcing the strategic role of local administrations.



The second Organic Districts World Congress also takes place in Idanha-a-Nova. It has been designed to address the multifaceted challenges and opportunities within the global organic districts movement and promote its global diffusion.

2024 Congress's theme, **“One Health, One Planet”** necessitates a comprehensive exploration of various aspects of the organic districts. To achieve this, the Congress is structured around **three core tracks**.



Track 1: Organic Districts' Integrated Management, Planning, Governance and Policies.

Objectives: support the Organic Districts in all the start-up, management and organization related activities involving the integration of the different dimensions of the Organic Districts (technical, environmental, social and economic). Focus areas are Organic Districts vision, organization structure, planning strategies, performance monitoring, private and public policies.

Track 2: Organic Districts' Outputs: Tourism, Gastronomy, Alternative Farming, Food Supply Chain, and Communication for Organic Districts.

Objectives: support the Organic Districts by analyzing tourism, gastronomy, regenerative farming, natural resource management, food processing, distribution, consumption, or effective communication strategies. The primary objective is to create a synergistic approach that promotes the sustainable development of Organic Districts while enhancing the understanding and appreciation of rural lifestyles and farming activities. The track will focus on the start-up, management, and organization of activities that highlight the natural, historical, and cultural heritage of the regions, with a particular focus on gastronomy. This integration will support the multifunctional role of farming, fostering collaboration among various community actors, including tourism agencies, cultural associations, and restaurant owners, thereby enhancing the overall sustainable development of the Organic Districts. Moreover, it focuses on activities that combine regenerative and organic farming practices with efficient natural resource management and energy production, ensuring a sustainable supply of food, fiber, and ecosystem services, which are crucial to the district's core activities. The analysis will also extend to food processing, distribution, and consumption, aiming to build a diversified local economic system that supports food and nutrition security, quality, and health. The benefits will not only be limited to the local communities but will also extend to tourists and consumers outside the district. Also, Communication plays an important role, as it involves collecting, organizing, and distributing relevant information to promote the Organic Districts among stakeholders, including the public, private sectors, and civil society. Effective communication strategies foster a sense of community, increase awareness and pride, and enhance trust, collaboration, and commitment within and between Organic Districts. This is crucial for the success of the Global Alliance of Organic Districts (GAOD), ensuring that all stakeholders are informed and engaged in the district's sustainable development efforts.

Track 3: Organic Districts' Social Impacts: Community Empowerment, Social Agriculture, Urban-Rural Synergy, Youth Engagement, and Gender Equity.

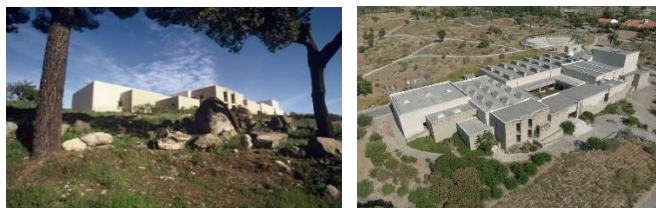
Objectives: support the Organic Districts by analyzing social agriculture, community enhancement, urban-rural relations, youth involvement and gender equity. This track is designed to improve social conditions, foster community bonds, promote inclusive and sustainable practices, and ensure equitable opportunities for all genders within the Organic Districts. By developing activities related to social agriculture and community

enforcement, the track aims to strengthen the Organic District's communities. The focus is on exchanges of ideas and experiences between urban and rural populations, thereby creating a virtuous cycle that benefits both communities. This approach has the goal to improve mutual understanding and knowledge, fostering stronger urban-rural linkages. Additionally, integrating socially fragile and marginalized individuals within inclusive Organic District communities is a key focus, which promotes social inclusion and cohesion. The track also emphasizes the vital role of youth in organic agriculture. By valorizing young members as carriers of innovative ideas, the track ensures a sustainable and food-secure future. It will provide the Global Alliance of Organic Districts (GAOD) with updated information on new trends and available innovations, fostering a dynamic and forward-thinking agricultural community. Gender equity is another crucial component of this track. It will promote equal opportunities and representation for all genders in all aspects of Organic District activities. By ensuring that all genders have an equal voice and presence, the track aims to create a more inclusive and fairer environment within the Organic Districts.

HOSTING ORGANIZATION

Câmara Municipal de Idanha-a-Nova, Praça do Município, 6060-163 Idanha-a-Nova, Castelo Branco – Portugal

Congress Venue:



Centro Cultural Raiano, Av. Joaquim Morão, 6060-713 Idanha-a-Nova, ccr@cm-idanhanova.pt
<https://www.cm-idanhanova.pt/areas/cultura/centro-cultural-raiano.aspx#>

Tel.: (+351) 277 202 900

GPS: 39.926967, -7.243981

Designed by architect Luís Marçal Grilo, the Raiano Cultural Centre extends over some 2,800 m². It includes several exhibition rooms, an auditorium with around 260 seats, multi-purpose and work spaces, distributed around a large interior garden. Completing this complex, outside, is the Amphitheatre with capacity for around 1000 seats.

SUMMARY PROGRAM OF ALL THE EVENTS



RegenAg Summit Powered by SFT-EDIH

Smart Sustainable Farms, Food and Trade European Digital Innovation Hub Event
from July 26 until August 4, 2024



Celebration of the Centenary of Biodynamic Agriculture

July 26-28, 2024



2nd Organic Districts World Congress

One Health, One Planet
from July 29 to August 2, 2024



2nd Desert and Drylands Organic Agriculture Network Summit

July 29-31, 2024



GLOBAL
ALLIANCE
ORGANIC
DISTRICTS



International
Network of
Eco
Regions



Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture

Tourist visits - August 2-3, 2024

Date	Detail	Notes
July 26, Friday	Arrival in Idanha-a-Nova of the CCBA Participants	Transfer of the CCBA participants from Lisbon or Madrid to Idanha-a-Nova (offered by the City Hall) Check in at the hotels
	RegenAg Summit Powered by SFT-EDIH - Hub Presentation - 4 pm The RegenAg Summit Powered by SFT-EDIH (Smart Sustainable Farms, Food and Trade, European Digital Innovation Hub) invites you to the presentation of the Hub: Why is digitalization so important for the agrifood sector? The presentation will be taking place in a dedicated auditorium from the Feira Raiana venue.	RegenAg Summit Powered by SFT-EDIH will have a specific agenda, to be published on the hub's website and social media. https://www.linkedin.com/company/sft-edih/ https://www.sft-edih.eu/ From 26 July, until 4 August. For more info please reach Cecília Franco cecilia.franco@bgi.pt
July 27, Saturday	Celebration of Centenary Biodynamic Agriculture Day 1	Breakfast at the hotel Transfer to the CCBA venue in Idanha-a-Nova Transfer to the hotels
July 28, Sunday	Celebration of Centenary Biodynamic Agriculture Day 2	Breakfast at the hotel Transfer to the CCBA venue Transfer to the hotels
	Arrival in Idanha-a-Nova of the ODC participants	Transfer of the ODC participants from Lisbon or Madrid to Idanha-a-Nova (offered by the City Hall) Check in at the hotels
July 29, Monday	Official Opening ceremony Plenary Day 1 <i>Lunch</i> Session 1: ODC - Organic Districts for a healthy Planet <i>Dinner</i>	Breakfast at the hotel Transfer to the Congress venue in Idanha-a-Nova Transfer to the hotels
	Plenary Day 2 <i>Lunch</i> Session 2: ODC - Key Components for Enhancing the Multi-Functionality of Organic Districts <i>Dinner</i>	Breakfast at the hotel Transfer to the Congress venue in Idanha-a-Nova Transfer to the hotels
July 30, Tuesday	Plenary Day 3 Experiences from Organic Districts in the World/Part 1 <i>Lunch</i> <i>Experiences from Organic Districts in the World/Part 2</i> <i>Discussion on Global strategies</i> ODC Conclusions Final Declaration ODC Official Closing <i>Dinner</i>	Breakfast at the hotel Transfer to the Congress venue in Idanha-a-Nova Transfer to the hotels
	Field trips to organic farms/part 1: • Herdade do Couto da Várzea • Living Seeds <i>Lunch at the hotel</i> Field trips to organic farms/part 2: • Monte da Silveira • Egitânia's olive grove and Idanha-a-Velha <i>Dinner</i>	Breakfast at the hotel Morning transfer to the organic farms Transfer to the hotels Afternoon transfer to the organic farms Transfer to the hotels
August 1, Thursday	Departure of foreign delegations	Breakfast at the hotel Transfer to Lisbon or Madrid Airport
	Additional tourist program Visit to the International Tejo Natural Park - Birdwatching <i>Lunch</i> Thermal experience in the thermal spa of Termas de Monfortinho <i>Dinner</i>	Breakfast at the hotel Tourist visits Transfer to the hotel
August 2, Friday	Fossils Trail in the heart of Naturtejo Geopark <i>Lunch</i> Visit to the Historic Village of Monsanto <i>Dinner</i>	
August 3, Saturday	Departure	Breakfast at the hotel Transfer to Lisbon or Madrid Airport

Throughout each day, participants will be able to enjoy the cultural entertainment of the XXIV Feira Raiana

<https://raiana.idanha.pt/>



2ND ORGANIC DISTRICTS WORLD CONGRESS - PROGRAM DETAILS

July 29 th , 2024, Monday Moderator: Jostein Hertwig		Day 1
Time	Details	
09:00	Registration	
09:30	Official Opening ceremony	
	Introductory Video on Idanha-a-Nova Bio-Região, winner of the EU Organic Awards 2023	
09:45	Opening Remarks and Introduction of VIPs 1. Jostein Hertwig , Executive Director of GAOD--Global Alliance for Organic Districts, President Beras International Foundation.	
10:00	Message of Greetings 2. Armindo Jacinto , Mayor of Idanha-a-Nova 3. Alberto Umbelino , Board Member of Municipal Center for Development Culture of Idanha-a-Nova 4. Karen Mapusua , President of IFOAM Organics International (video contribution) 5. Emilia Setyowati , Vice-President of IFOAM-Organics Asia 6. Zhang Jiawang , CEO China Shengmu Organic Milk Ltd	
10:45	Congratulatory Messages – Local and Foreign VIPs 7. Authorities 8. Verónica Santillán , CIAO - Comisión Interamericana de Agricultura Orgánica 9. Yoshikuni Watanabe , Mayor of Kisarazu City, Japan 10. Adriano De Vita , Mayor of Novi Velia – Cilento Bio-District, Italy	
11:20	Special Events 11. Signing ceremonies: China Shengmu Organic+ IFOAM-Organics Asia+ The Organic Center – US 12. GAOD and INNER Recognitions Official group photo of the Congress: everybody on stage!	
11:45	Keynote Speeches 13. Salvatore Basile , Co-Chair of GAOD-Global Alliance for Organic Districts and Director of IN.N.E.R. – International Network of Eco Regions, Twenty years of Organic Districts	
12:00	14. Gonçalo Amorim , CEO of BGI Building Global, Introduction to Innovation in Organic Districts BGI representatives	
12:15	15. Special Presentation by Amber Sciligo , Director of The Organic Center, USA: Introduction of DOAN & Promotion of OA in the Deserts and Drylands	
12:30	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:30	Session 1 - ODC Organic Districts for a healthy Planet	
14:40	Landscape Health: 16. Nicolaus Zouros , Global Geopark Network – “UNESCO Geoparks and the valorization of Landscape” (online) 17. Jorge Cancela , Landscape architect – “The health of landscapes”	
15:00	Soil Health: 18. Margarida Palma , Food4Sustainability – “The soil health at the service of agriculture” 19. Marie Bartz , Municipal Center for Development Culture & Centre for Organic and Regenerative Agriculture – “The role of soil and it's biodiversity”	
15:20	Water Health: 20. Pimenta Machado , Portuguese Environment Agency (to confirm) 21. Pedro Teiga , E.Rio – “Rehabilitating of rivers to improve everyone’s health” 22. António José Correia , Fundação Oceano Azul – “Oceano Azul Foundation for a healthy Ocean”	
15:50	Energy Health: 23. Joaquim Rodrigues , Biomespace – “Energy Health”	
16:00	Biodiversity Health: 24. Jael Palhas , Universidade de Coimbra, “Health of autochthonous areas versus invaders species”	

16:50	25. Tiago Lourenço - Real Idanha – “Olive groves - reinterpreting the traditional” 26. Miguel Carrasco, As Pontis – “Olive groves - crossing borders” 27. David Gargiulo, Poli-Nation – “Olive plantations as potential carbon sinks” 28. Peter Toth, IN.N.E.R. Scientific Committee and Responsible for Eastern Europe, “How to support biodiversity” Food Health: 29. Jostein Hertwig, BERAS Int. Foundation, Sweden, True Cost Accounting for hidden cost of food and potential positive impact by organic on health, climate and biodiversity 30. Ana Luísa Alves, Maria Inês Ferreira, Maria João Ferreira e Maria Margarida Ferreira, Talho das Manas – “The role of food in our health and the health of the planet” 31. Ana Música, Amuse Bouche – “The health of Gastronomy: creativity is the best medicine!” 32. Luísa Almeida, Quinta do Arneiro – ““Healthy” farmers can produce healthy food” 33. Guy Singh-Watson, Riverford – “From wheel barrow to £100m and back” (online)
17:40	One Health: 34. Alvaro Beleza (Doctor) – “Quality of life gives health” 35. Rodrigo Ayoub (Doctor) – “Healthy environment, healthy body!” 36. Koen Deckx, Evy's Bees, Lda – “Evy's Bees Project”
18.30	Closure
20:30	Cultural Evening and Dinner

July 30th, 2024, Tuesday Moderator: Salvatore Basile		Day 2
Time	Details	
09:30	Plenary (Keynote Speeches)	
09:40	1. Divaldo Rezende , Social Carbon foundation, Co-Restore and Wilder, Brazil (Trasck 2)	
10:00	2. Juan Pablo Sciurano , IN.N.E.R. Scientific Committee and Responsible for Latin America: Integrating organic and agroecological approaches for Eco Regions agrifood development. Latin America initiatives and perspectives. (Trasck 1)	
10:20	3. Jennifer Chang , IFOAM Asia, Arms to Farms: Building Peace Through Organic Farming. (Track 3)	
10:40	4. Patrizia Pugliese , CIHEAM Bari, Italy, “CIHEAM Bari's commitment for the development of organic districts in the Mediterranean area” (Track 1)	
11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11:20	5. Samia Maamer , Responsible for IN.N.E.R. Africa, Promotion of BioTerritories in French-speaking Africa (Track 1)	
11:40	6. Ove D. Jakobsen , Centre for Ecological Economics and Ethics, Nord University Business School (Norway) (pre-recorded contribution)	
12:10	Debate	
12:30	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:30	Session 2 ODC Key Components for Enhancing the Multi-Functionality of Organic Districts	
14:30	7. Emilio Buonomo , Cilento Bio-District (Italy), IN.N.E.R. President, Grand Tour Bio (Track 2)	
14:45	8. Ignazio Cirronis and Chiara Medda , South Sardinia and Sulcis Archipelago Bio-District (Italy), “Bio-Districts, an opportunity to reach the territorial economic sustainability” (Track 1)	
15:00	9. Ivana Simić , Serbia Organic President, “Opportunity for Organic Districts in Serbia” (Track 1)	
15:15	10. Dijana Posavec , Centar dr. Rudolf Steiner, Donji Kraljevec, Medjmurje County, Croatia, Land in which dr. Rudolf Steiner founder of biodynamic agriculture was born (Track 1)	
15:30	Coffee break 11. Jostein Hertwig, BERAS Int. Foundation, Sweden, EU BSR KISMET Project: “Sörmland Bio-District”	

15:45	(Track 1)
16:00	12. Aina Calafat Rogers , SEAE (Spain), “Organic Districts and Proximity Tourism, complementary tools for resilience and adaptation to Climate Change.” (Track 2)
16:15	13. Raffaele Basile , INNER, “Eco-regions, a measure of well-being” (Track 2)
16:30	14. Darko Znaor , Avalon Foundation (the Netherlands), Assessment of a Bioregion’s Health Check (Track 1)
16:45	15. Ryan Anthony Monang Bestre , Young Organics Global Network, Growing Together: Youth Engagement in Organic Food Systems (Track 3)
17:00	Debate
17.30	Closure BoD IN.N.E.R. - 1 hour
	Cultural Evening and Dinner

July 31st, 2024, Wednesday Moderator: Cesare Zanasi Day 3	
Time	Details
09:30	Plenary - Experiences from Organic Districts in the World/Part 1
09:45	1. Bernadette San Juan , Director of the National Organic Agriculture Program, Philippines, “Development of Participatory Guarantee Systems in the Philippines” (Track 3)
10:00	2. Miyoshi Satoko , IFOAM World Board Member, Japan. Building a national movement of Organic Villages, local governments promoting organic farming and organic school meal (Track 3)
10:15	3. Kesang Tshomo , Director of the National Organic Agriculture Program, “The Organic Journey of Bhutan” (Track 1) <i>Video</i>
10:30	4. Verónica Santillán , Comisión Interamericana de Agricultura Orgánica (CIAO) - IICA, presentation and ICOAS members countries, an opportunities for the development of Biodistricts (Track 1)
10:45	5. Giacomo Packer , University of Bologna, Italy, “The Social Impact of Bio-districts” (Track 3)
11:00	6. Pavle Djorjevic , Kolubara Bio-district, “the First Biodistrict in Serbia” (Track 1)
11:15	7. Sundeep Srinivas Kamath , former Secretary of the Biodynamic Association of India & former Board Member of IFOAM Asia, “Potential Bio Districts along the Ancient Silk Road” (Track 1)
11:30	8. Te-Chun Chen , IFOAM Organics International, Bonn, “Actor participation and trust in the Cilento Bio-District” (Track 3)
11:45	9. Giuseppe Cilento , New Cilento Agr. Coop, Organic Regenerative Agriculture: the agriculture that joins together (Track 2)
12:00	10. Chin Huei Wen , Association of Taiwanese Indigenous People’s Development; Alternative farming system and solidarity economy: a case study on PGS Project for the Tribal E-Shop” in Taiwan (Track 2)
12:15	Debate
12:30	<i>Lunch</i>
14:30	Plenary - Experiences from Organic Districts in the World/Part 2
	11. Introduction and Coordination by Custódio De Sousa Oliveira
	12. Bio-Região de Idanha-a-Nova – Rafael André
	13. Bio-Região do Alto Tâmega – Rui Lagoa
	14. Bio-Região de São Pedro Do Sul – Angela Abreu
	15. Bio-Região da Margem Esquerda do Guadiana – David Machado
	16. Bio-Região Dos Lagos do Sabor – Victor Sobral
	17. Candidate Bio-Região da Madeira , Portugal – Manuel Neto
	18. Candidate Bio-Região dos Açores , Portugal – Pedro Casimiro
	19. Candidate Bio-Região Corgo e Pinhão , Portugal – Joaquim Bernardino Lopes
	20. Candidate Bio-Região do Têdo , Portugal – Marco Souto
	21. Candidate Bio-Region Aveyron , France – Alain Legout
	22. Other countries candidates

16:30	Discussion on Global strategies with Moderation by Fernanda Gabriel
17:45	ODC Conclusions
18:00	Final Declaration
18.30	ODC Official Closing
	Cultural Evening and Dinner

OPENING REMARKS

	Jostein Hertwig Sweden Executive Director of GAOD--Global Alliance for Organic Districts President Beras International Foundation	 
--	--	--

MESSAGE OF GREATINGS

	Armindo Jacinto Portugal Mayor of Idanha-a-Nova	
	Alberto Umbelino Portugal Board Member of CMCD Municipal Center for Development and Culture of Idanha-a-Nova	
	Karen Mapusua Fiji President of IFOAM-Organics International	
	Emilia Tri Setyowati Indonesia Vice-President of IFOAM-Organics Asia	
	Zhang Jiawang China CEO China Shengmu Organic Milk Ltd	

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

	Verónica Santillán Ecuador CIAO - Comisión Interamericana de Agricultura Orgánica	
	Yoshikuni Watanabe Japan Mayor of Kisarazu City, Japan	
	Adriano De Vita Italy Mayor of Novi Velia – Cilento Bio-District, Italy Director of the Hospital "San Luca" in Vallo della Lucania	

KEYNOTE SPEECHES

	Salvatore Basile Italy Founder and Director of I.N.N.E.R. – International Network of Eco-Regions (www.ecoregion.info), Co-Chair of GAOD – Global Alliance for the Organic Districts (www.gaod.online), founder and honorary President of the Cilento Bio-District in Italy (www.biodistretto.net).
Title Twenty years of Organic Districts (2004-2024), from the Cilento Bio-District to IN.N.E.R. and G.A.O.D.	
	Gonçalo Amorim Portugal CEO of BGI - Building Global Innovators
Title Introduction to Innovation in Organic Districts	
	Amber Renee Sciligo USA Director of Science Programs of The Organic Center, USA
Title Introduction of DOAN & Promotion of OA in the Deserts and Drylands	

ORGANIC DISTRICTS  CELEBRATING 20 YEARS ANNIVERSARY 2004 - 2024	Twenty years of Organic Districts (2004-2024) from the Cilento Bio-District to IN.N.E.R. and G.A.O.D. Salvatore Basile   International Network of Eco Regions
---	--

Introduction

Movements urging governments to change decisively towards the ecological transition - often led by young people - are quickly spreading around the world. This happens in a global context of climate change, biodiversity loss and overexploitation of natural resources, local and international conflicts, with serious consequences for environment, society and health.

More and more rural communities have organized themselves to respond in a concrete and effective way to these requests, promoting alternative, sustainable food systems, such as those created in the organic districts (or bio-districts, or eco/bio-regions). These experiences have shown a capacity of facing the global challenges of the 21st century, starting from an integrated, multidimensional, participatory, inclusive and territorial approach.

Organic districts are based on the IFOAM principles of organic agriculture of health, ecology, fairness and care, facilitating interactions between all the actors (producers, public administrators, consumers, etc.). Each territory is unique, following its local nature, lifestyle, human relations and food culture. They are concrete examples of how “Organic 3.0” can be realized in practice.

However, it is necessary to put together and coordinate all the experiences already developed, in order to involve other governments, other organizations, other territories, to build together an example of a global sustainable organic food system. This is the main goal of GAOD.

The establishment of Cilento Bio-District in Italy

The starting of the Organic Districts experience has a specific date which we can indicate on **2 January 2004**. This is as a matter of fact the date of a public meeting held in Castel San Lorenzo, in the province of Salerno, in the Cilento National Park, titled "Creation of an organic agriculture district".

In a short while various experts were involved in the initiative aimed at the creation of an Organic District, in synergy with organic farmers, consumers and public officials. Other public meetings were undertaken, and was involved also the Mountain Community of “Valley of Calore Salernitano river” with its 16 municipalities.

Some first documents were created emphasizing the main characteristics for an Organic District.

Let's see which characteristics were identified:

- first of all, the **multisectoriality** (to ensure a homogeneous development of the territory)
- then the “**bottom up approach**” (after the initial opening words of the municipality, was up to the citizens lay down directly “the rules of the game”)
- and finally a **governance** with the participation of all the representatives of the community (farmers, other economic operators, public administrators, active citizenship).

So, **the first guidelines of Organic Districts**, developed in Cilento, started to define in a simple, concrete and clear way who should do what, sharing commitments and responsibilities in a balanced way.

For five years, from 2004 to 2009, that of Cilento was the only Organic District in Italy.

In 2009 to promote the dissemination of organic district model on a national level, several conferences were made and several organizations and associations were involved.

In chronological order, were then established the following Italian Organic Districts: Grecanico (2009), Greve in Chianti (2012), San Gimignano (2012), Via Amerina e Forre (2013), Valli Valdesi (2013), Valle dei Laghi (2013), Val di Gresta (2014), Val di Vara (2014), Il Piceno (2014), Val Camonica (2014).

Ideas, initiatives (...and organic districts!) continued to sprout in the following years.

The establishment of the International Network of Eco Regions (IN.N.E.R.)

From the first experience in Italy, the Organic District model spread its philosophy first to the European area and then to the rest of the world. The purpose of the synergy between Organic Districts is to facilitate the exchange of ideas and good practices among all the organic territories at a global level, through shared operational schemes. Growing together, in a sustainable way, through a participatory approach to solving problems: this is the primary objective of virtuous communities in Organic Districts.

Considering all that, ***the 14th of December 2014 in Corchiano (Viterbo) – Italy, at the end of an intense and participatory three-day international meeting, IN.N.E.R. was born.*** In a few years this network has seen its expansion all over the world, with the participation of many new Organic Districts. It has been also developed a strategy of agreements signed by this network with important international networks, able to connect Organic Districts with the international organic community.



The establishment of the Global Alliance of Organic Districts (GAOD)

After the 1st Organic Districts Congress in Idanha-a-Nova, many organic organizations, international agencies, governments -coming from all continents- met at the "ALGOA + 4 International Summit on Organic Farming Policy" held in September 2019 in Goesan County, in South Korea.

Following all the works, I had the opportunity to compare the experiences of the organic districts, developed for the first time in 2004 in Cilento – Italy, with territorial organic initiatives carried out in other countries and continents. There were many aspects in common and it was “natural” to talk about common strategies and building new alliances.

A first important attempt to create a link between these experiences has already been started by one of the main actors of the Summit: the OFSP - Organic Food System Program, the United Nations Core initiative with the main aim to use the Organic food systems as models and living laboratories for transformation processes, towards sustainable food systems. Jostein Hertwig, one of the OFSP coordinators, will also become a leading part of the GAOD coordination team. So, there will be closer cooperation on certain points.

At the end of the Summit 2019 in Goesan County, the proposal to create a common platform between all the initiatives was launched.

We left the Summit with a promise: to build a strong, global, alliance as soon as possible!



Goesan County – South Korea – 2019 September, 20

In the following months an intensive work has done to put the agreement into practice and on Feb 6th, 2020, at the Italian Ministry of Agriculture in Rome, ALGOA signed a first Memorandum of Understanding with the International Network of Eco-Regions (IN.N.E.R.), supported by IFOAM-Organics International, IFOAM Asia, IFOAM EU, the Baltic Foundation of Lithuania and the Organic Food System Program, for future cooperation.



Feb 6th, 2020 - Rome, Italy, Ministry of Agriculture: MOU signature



The two GAOD's co-chairs

Following the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic, world public opinion was reminded how the world is interconnected and how environmental and health issues required a global ecological transition to be adequately addressed.

The organic districts, with their complex, multisectoral and international approach, are gaining an increasing importance as concrete experience able to tackle these challenges and give answers to the new demands coming from the civil society and governments.

Many on-line conferences were held to discuss strategic issues (e.g. organic and regenerative agriculture, soil fertility, carbon reduction, ecological economy, organic procurement by public administration, food quality and health and sustainable diets, Tool kit and Monitoring tool developed by IN.N.E.R. for the creation and the management of the organic districts); steps were also taken to expand the Alliance.

On April 15th, the signers of the MoU in Rome invited other organizations such as Regeneration International and League of Organic Municipalities, Cities and Provinces of the Philippines (LOAMCP-PH). Further to these events, the Global Alliance of Organic Districts (GAOD) was born!



Supported by:



GAOD Annual Summits

From 12 to 16 October 2020 was held in Goesan County – South Korea - the first GAOD Summit (in online mode, due to the restrictions of the Covid Pandemic) together with the 6th ALGOA Summit “Building Alliance Beyond Asia”.



From 26 to 29 October 2021 was held in Goesan County – South Korea - the second GAOD Summit together with the 7th ALGOA Summit “Regenerating more resilient, sustainable local food System”.



From 18 to 19 July 2022 was held in Goesan County – South Korea - the third GAOD Summit together with the 8th ALGOA Summit “Public participation in Local Governance”.



the 16th of October 2022 the **Organic 3.0 Local Governments Declaration** was launched at the **Closing Ceremony of the 2022 IFOAM-Goesan International Organic Expo.**



10 Goals to Achieve

1. To promote the development of inclusive Local Organic Food Systems and Organic Districts by engaging the participation of all interested organizations and citizens to co-create thriving local economies;
2. To collect and disseminate research, **best practices**, mindsets, and values in Organic Districts facilitating the shift into healthy, sustainable, and inclusive food systems;
3. To support the development of **sustainable and inclusive value chains**, addressing all stakeholders in cross-cutting policies;
4. To prioritize **green public procurement** such as the provision of organic meals in kindergartens, schools, hospitals, military and elderly care centers;
5. To promote **ecotourism** that is environmentally, socially and culturally sustainable to link the values and

ways of rural living to urban lifestyles;

6. To implement programs and policies that favor the sustainable management of the **common goods** such as water, land and air;

7. To advocate the “**organic approach**” in other sectors emphasizing on energy-saving, the use of renewable energy, recycling and waste reduction, and lower impact modes of transportation;

8. To achieve **gender equality and facilitate the integration of young people in the decision-making processes** as they are the key drivers of innovation and stewards of our future;

9. To implement **education and communication programs** aimed at promoting food and nutrition security, healthy lifestyles and quality of life;

10. To establish **mutual cooperation** among the local governments to promote the coordination of local policies and plans with regional, national and international policies to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

From 5 to 6 June 2023 was held in Kauswagan – Lanao de Norte – Philippines - the fourth GAOD Summit together with the 9th ALGOA Summit “Manifesting Organic Districts in Asia”.



GAOD Activities

GAOD intends to develop and strengthen a coherent strategic framework for the development of the organic districts.

These strategies will be devoted to:

- improve the quality of life of the citizens, especially the ones resident in rural areas;
- increase the employment opportunities and the quality of jobs, especially for young people and women;
- increase the power of attraction of rural areas, boosting the connections between strategies of sustainable development of the rural and urban areas;
- fight climate change, biodiversity loss and its impacts, starting from the development of good local practices, globally interconnected;
- promote and improve transnational cooperation.

The GAOD aim will be to become the “global space of change” for the exchange of knowledge, ideas, resources, projects between peoples of all continents, who have decided to act for an ecological worldview, with a clear and shared vision. GAOD is open and accessible to all, with equal rights.

To this end, GAOD has worked from the beginning to widen the Alliance as much as possible and has organized in working groups, which have the task of providing good practices and supporting local activities with clear guidelines.

GAOD'S WORK GROUPS

Work Group 1: Organic Districts' Integrated Management, Planning, Governance and Policies

Work Group 2: Tourism – Gastronomy

Work Group 3: Regenerative/Organic farming - Agroecology - Natural resources management and Energy production

Work Group 4: Food: Processing – Distribution- Consumption. Food and nutrition security quality and health

Work Group 5: Social issues. Social agriculture - communities' enforcement - urban-rural relations

Work Group 6: Communication

Work Group 7: Youth and organic agriculture (ref "Young Organics Global Network")

Work Group 8: Gender equity

GAOD Network

There are thousands of organic territories in the world and many more are emerging. GAOD's main aim is to network and enhance them, developing common strategies, guidelines, tools and characterising them under the common name/concept of organic districts.



Google Earth Map available on <https://www.ecoregion.info/2020/11/09/organic-districts-map/>

Organic Districts already established

1. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO CILENTO
2. ITALY DISTRETTO AGROALIMENTARE DI QUALITÀ LITORALE DOMITIO FLEGREO E LIBURIA
3. ITALY DISTRETTO AGROALIMENTARE DI QUALITÀ CAMPANIA IN GUSCIO
4. ITALY BIODISTRETTO DI IRPINIA
5. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO SALENTO
6. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO EOLIE
7. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO TERRE DEGLI ELIMI
8. ITALY DISTRETTO BIOLOGICO BIO SLOW PANE E OLIO
9. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO BORGHI SICANI
10. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO VALLE DEL SIMETO
11. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO DEI NEBRODI
12. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO GRECANICO
13. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO BATICÒS
14. ITALY DISTRETTO DEL CIBO BIO- CALABRIA DI COPANELLO
15. ITALY DISTRETTO BIOLOGICO DEL PARCO REGIONALE DELLE SERRE E DEI TERRITORI LIMITROFI

16. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO SALENTO
17. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO DELL'ALTA MURCIA
18. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO DELLE LAME
19. ITALY DISTRETTO BIOSLOW DELLE PUGLIE
20. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO MONTI DAUNI
21. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO FRENTANO
22. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO VALLE DI COMINO
23. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO CASTELLI ROMANI
24. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO ETRUSCO ROMANO
25. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO VIA AMERINA E FORRE
26. ITALY BIODISTRETTO MAREMMA ETRUSCA E MONTI DELLA TOLFA
27. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO LAGO DI BOLSENA
28. ITALY BIODISTRETTO COLLINE DELL'AMASENO
29. ITALY BIODISTRETTO ALTO LAZIO - TERRA VIVA
30. ITALY BIODISTRETTO COLLI ETRUSCHI-MONTALTO DI CASTRO E TUSCANIA
31. ITALY BIODISTRETTO TERRE DEI COLONNA: GENAZZANO – PALIANO
32. ITALY BIODISTRETTO DEL SALTO CICOLANO
33. ITALY BIODISTRETTO DEI LAGHI DI BRACCIANO E MARTIGNANO
34. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO DIBIUM
35. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO NORCIA
36. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO FERMANO PICENO
37. ITALY DISTRETTO BIOLOGICO MARCHE – LA BIODIVERSITÀ CHE CI UNISCE
38. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO TERRE MARCHIGIANE
39. ITALY BIODISTRETTO DI PROSSIMITÀ PICENUM
40. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO VALDICHIANA ARETINA
41. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO CASENTINO
42. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO DEL CHIANTI
43. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO SAN GIMIGNANO
44. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO VALDERA
45. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO DEL MONTALBANO
46. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO DI FIESOLE
47. ITALY DISTRETTO BIOLOGICO DI CALENZANO
48. ITALY DISTRETTO RURALE E BIOLOGICO DELLA VAL DI CECINA
49. ITALY DISTRETTO BIOLOGICO DELLA MAREMMA TOSCANA
50. ITALY DISTRETTO BIOLOGICO BIO- DISTRETTO COLLINE DELLA PIA
51. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO CASALASCO-VIADANESE
52. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO APPENNINO BOLOGNESE
53. ITALY ROMAGNA DISTRETTO BIO SIMBIOTICO
54. ITALY DISTRETTO BIOLOGICO VALLI DEL PANARO E APPENNINO MODENESE
55. ITALY BIO REGGIANO DISTRETTO BIOLOGICO
56. ITALY CONSORZIO DEL BIODISTRETTO DELLE ALTE VALLI
57. ITALY DISTRETTO PARMA BIO VALLEY
58. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO AGRISOCIALE BERGAMO
59. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO VALLE CAMONICA
60. ITALY DISTRETTO AGRICOLO BIOLOGICO CASALASCO VIADANESE
61. ITALY DISTRETTO BIOLOGICO DELLA VALTELLINA
62. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO ASIAGO
63. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO BIO-VENEZIA
64. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO GRAMOGLIANO
65. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO BIO-VERONA
66. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO COLLI EUGANEI
67. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO TERRE BELLUNESI
68. ITALY Biodistretto Della Produzione E Della Comunità Del Biologico Della Venezia Centro-Orientale
69. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO VAL DI GRETTA
70. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO VALLE DEI LAGHI
71. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO VANOI
72. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO VALTELLINA
73. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO TRENTO
74. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO FILO DI LUCE IN CANAVESE
75. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO VALLI VALDESI
76. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO TERRE DEL GIAROLO

77. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO SUOL D'ALERAMO
78. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO VAL DI VARA
79. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO SUD SARDEGNA E ARCIPELAGO DEL SULCIS
80. ITALY DISTRETTO BIOLOGICO SARDEGNA BIO
81. FRANCE BIOVALLÉE
82. SWITZERLAND VALPOSCHIAVO
83. AUSTRIA MÜHLVIERTEL
84. SWEDEN ORGANIC DISTRICT SÖDERTÄLJE
85. LATVIA GAUJA NATIONAL PARK ORGANIC DISTRICT
86. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN MUHL DORFER LAND (BAYERN)
87. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN NEUMARKT I.D. OPF. (BAYERN)
88. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN STEINWALD-ALLIANZ (BAYERN)
89. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN NÜRNBERG, NÜRNBERGER LAND, ROTH (BAYERN)
90. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN WAGINGER SEE – RUPERTIWINKEL (BAYERN)
91. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN AMBERG-SULZBACH UND STADT AMBERG (BAYERN)
92. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN ILZER LAND (BAYERN)
93. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN MIESBACHER OBERLAND (BAYERN)
94. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN OBERALLGÄU KEMPTEN (BAYERN)
95. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN OBERES WERNTAL (BAYERN)
96. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN RHÖN-GRABFELD (BAYERN)
97. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN STADT.LAND.WÜ. (BAYERN)
98. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN STADT.LAND.AUGSBURG (BAYERN)
99. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN PAARTAL (BAYERN)
100. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN OSTALLGÄU (BAYERN)
101. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN GÜNZTAL (BAYERN)
102. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN KULTURRAUM AMPERTAL (BAYERN)
103. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN INN-SALZACH (BAYERN)
104. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN HOCHRIES-KAMPENWAND-WENDELSTEIN (BAYERN)
105. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN PASSAUER OBERLAND (BAYERN)
106. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN STIFTLAND (BAYERN)
107. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN NATURPARKLAND OBERPFÄLZER WALD (BAYERN)
108. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN STADT.LAND.REGENSBURG (BAYERN)
109. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN FICHELGEIRGE (BAYERN)
110. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN FRÄNKISCHE SCHWEIZ (BAYERN)
111. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN OBERMAIN-JURA (BAYERN)
112. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN BAMBERGER LAND (BAYERN)
113. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN LANDKREIS ASCHAFFENBURG (BAYERN)
114. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN NATURPARK OBERER BAYERISCHER WALD (BAYERN)
115. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN LANDKREIS KELHEIM (BAYERN)
116. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN REGION LANDSHUT (BAYERN)
117. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN LANDKREIS ROTTAL-INN (BAYERN)
118. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN ILE AN ROTT UND INN (BAYERN)
119. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN STADT. LAND. INGOLSTADT (BAYERN)
120. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN VG GLONN (BAYERN)
121. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN MÜNSTERLAND (NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN)
122. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN NIEDERRHEIN (NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN)
123. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN KREIS HÖXTER (NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN)
124. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN WALDECK-FRANKENBERG (HESSEN)
125. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN NORDHESSEN (HESSEN)
126. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN SCHWALM-EDER (HESSEN)
127. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN HERSFELD-ROTENBURG (HESSEN)
128. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN MARBURG-BIEDENKOPF (HESSEN)
129. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN VOGELSBERG (HESSEN)
130. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN FULDA (HESSEN)
131. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN LAHN-DILL-GIEßEN (HESSEN)
132. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN WETTERAU (HESSEN)
133. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN MAIN-KINZIG (HESSEN)
134. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN NASSAUER LAND (HESSEN)
135. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN RHEIN-MAIN (HESSEN)
136. GERMANY ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN SÜD (HESSEN)
137. GERMANY N. 8 ÖKO-MODELLREGIONEN Niedersachsen (LOWER SAXONY)

138. GERMANY N. 14 Bio-Musterregion In BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG
139. PORTUGAL BIO-REGIÃO IDANHA-A-NOVA
140. PORTUGAL BIO-REGIÃO ALTO TÂMEGA
141. PORTUGAL SÃO PEDRO DO SUL
142. PORTUGAL BIO REGIÃO DA MARGEM ESQUERDA DO GUADIANA
143. PORTUGAL BIO REGIÃO LAGOS DO SABOR
144. SERBIA KOLUBARA BIODISTRICT
145. TUNISIA BIOTERRITOIRE SEJNENE À BIZERTE
146. TUNISIA BIOTERRITOIRE HAOUARIA À NABEUL
147. TUNISIA BIOTERRITOIRE KESRA À SILIANA
148. TUNISIA BIOTERRITORIE MAJEL BEL ABBES À KASSERINE
149. TUNISIA BIOTERRITORIE HAZOUA À TOZEUR
150. ARGENTINA CATAMARCA ORGANIC DISTRICT

Organic Districts in development

1. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO VESUVIO
2. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO FOCE SELE E TANAGRO
3. PORTUGAL BIO-REGIÃO MADEIRA
4. PORTUGAL BIO REGIÃO AÇORES
5. BIO-REGIÃO CORGO E PINHÃO
6. PORTUGAL BIO-REGIÃO TEDO
7. SPAIN ECO-DISTRIT VINALOPÓ MITJÀ I ALT
8. SPAIN ECOTERRITORIO VALDEMOSSA – MALLORCA
9. SPAIN ECOTERRITORIO MÁLAGA
10. TURCHIA EKO-BÖLGE IZMİR
11. NORWAY ORGANIC DISTRICT BODØ
12. CROATIA MEDIMURJE BIODISTRICT

Organic Best practices

1. ITALY BIO-DISTRETTO VESUVIO
2. MOUANS-SARTOUX
3. LAGOS METROPOLITAN AREA
4. MANYARA ORGANIC FARMING INITIATIVE (MOFI)
5. REGENAG SA
6. ODAK ALLIANCE
7. SIKKIM BIO
8. XICHONG COUNTY
9. INBA SEVA SANGAM (ISS)
10. LOCAL LEARNING CENTER THE NILGIRIS
11. INDONESIA-1000 ORGANIC VILLAGES PROGRAM
12. KAUSWAGAN – PHILIPPINES
13. BISLIG
14. REGENAG – AUSTRALIA
15. WELLINGTON REGION
16. “ECOVIDA AGROECOLOGY”- NETWORK IN VALE DO CAI
17. QUITO MUNICIPALITY
18. SAN MIGUEL DE ALLENDE
19. CHESTER COUNTY
20. REGENERATION CANADA
21. PAMPA ORGANICA
22. SEKEM
23. TAKANABE, JAPAN, ONE OF THE 100 "ORGANIC VILLAGES"
24. KISARAZU, JAPAN, ORGANIC CITY

ORGANIC DISTRICTS MILESTONES

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL



NOW it's time to coordinate all the experiences already developed, in order to involve other Governments, Organizations, Territories, to create a **critical mass** to make the global change Possible!

During this Congress, we have to decide the global strategy for the development of organic districts to be adopted over the next five years.

**Let's work together,
with positive energy,
for One Planet and One Health!**

SESSION 1: ORGANIC DISTRICTS FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

	<i>Landscape Health</i> Nicolaus Zouros Global Geopark Network
Title UNESCO Geoparks and the valorization of Landscape	
	<i>Landscape Health</i> Jorge Cancela Landscape architect
Title The health of landscapes	
	<i>Soil Health</i> Margarida Palma Food4Sustainability
Title The soil health at the service of agriculture	
	<i>Soil Health</i> Marie Bartz Municipal Center for Development Culture & Centre for Organic and Regenerative Agriculture
Title The role of soil and it's biodiversity	

	Water Health Pimenta Machado Portuguese Environment Agency
	Water Health Pedro Teiga E.Rio
Title Rehabilitating of rivers to improve everyone's health	
	Water Health António José Correia Fundação Oceano Azul
Title Oceano Azul Foundation for a healthy Ocean	
	Energy Health Joaquim Rodrigues Biomespace
Title Energy Health	

	Biodiversity Health Jael Palhas Coimbra University
Title Health of autochthonous areas versus invaders species	
	Biodiversity Health Tiago Lourenço Real Idanha
Title Olive groves - reinterpreting the traditional	
	Biodiversity Health Miguel Carrasco As Pontis
Title Olive groves - crossing borders	
	Biodiversity Health David Gargiulo Poli-Nation
Title Olive plantations as potential carbon sinkers	

	Biodiversity Health Peter Toth IN.N.E.R. Scientific Committee and Responsible for Eastern Europe
Title How to support biodiversity	
Summary Biodiversity - the variety of organisms. The most important is one of its most essential components and that is the natural enemies to which they belong - predators, parasitoids and pathogens. The level of biodiversity, whether genetic, species or ecosystem, can influence pest regulation. Biodiversity increases the value of the environment and the performance of ecosystems. Knowledge and research should play a key role in all ecosystem activities. Knowledge is power and applied knowledge is wisdom. The value of biodiversity in agriculture is difficult to quantify. It is difficult to assess the positive impact of ecological compensation areas and the beneficial organisms they contain. The success or positive impact of weed strips/natural vegetation or other ecological compensation areas is not always what you see. The ecosystem services of the area are the benefits that people receive from ecosystems - and they have an impact on people's living standards. Biodiversity in agroecosystems is generally reduced by human management. The main problem of agroecosystems, including organic ones, is the fragmentation of natural vegetation within and around the agroecosystem. One solution may be to support ecological compensation areas by deliberately sowing selected mixtures of flowering plants and supporting and expanding natural vegetation. Ecological compensation areas should cover at least 5-10% of the agroecosystem area. Ecological use of the landscape, i.e. purposeful and rational management, helps to increase biodiversity.	
	Food Health Jostein Hertwig Anders Bergkvist Astrid K. Hertwig BERAS Int. Foundation, Bio district Sörmland, Sweden
Title True Cost Accounting for hidden cost of food and potential positive impact by organic on health, climate and biodiversity	
Executive Summary SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD CULTURE Opening the pathway to the next phase of organic. Areview of scientific papers related to the concept of True Cost Accounting for hidden cost of food and potential positive impact by organic on health, climate and biodiversity.   Co-funded by the European Union 	

0. Our findings strongly advocate for organic agriculture and food.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and other renowned institutions have developed the concept of True Cost Accounting for the hidden cost of food (TCA) and stipulated the monetary cost related to health, climate and biodiversity at global level to be bigger than for example the GDP of the EU.

We have reviewed around 50 scientific papers. Our findings are most promising and suggest a pathway and concrete measures to significantly decrease the hidden cost of food as follows:

- a **dietary pattern** with less refined sugar, fats and oils and meat and more plant rich food will significantly reduce health and environmental costs (Tillman & Clark in Nature 2014)
- **eating organic** is associated with significant less negative health risks such as for overweight and obesity (-23/ 31%), metabolic syndrome (-31%), type II diabetes (-35%) and risk of cancer (-25%) (The French BioNutrinetSanté study with 12 published research papers)
- **organic food** contains less residues of pesticides (Meta studies by Rahman et. al and Jiang et.al)
- **organic/biodynamic farming systems** have up to 60% less emissions of greenhouse gases and have more soil biodiversity (The Swiss based Research Institutes of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) and their 45-year DOK trial)
- It is assumed that **Bio districts have a vital role** in facilitating the inclusive process advocating for and implementing the transformation needed for farming, food, equal rights and lifestyle.

MAIN OBSERVATIONS

The price we as consumers pay for food in the shop does not reflect the true cost. We and the society at large “pay” in addition the negative impact on health, the climate and environment.

We have demonstrated that organic farming and food significantly can reduce the hidden costs. It is our opinion that the price of organic food, all aspects included, is less than food from monoculture agriculture with the use of herbicides, pesticides and mineral fertilizer.

The emerging understanding of the science and logic behind True Cost Accounting for the hidden costs of food will open the pathway to the next phase of organic.

It is assumed that Bio districts have a vital role in facilitating the transformation needed.

1. Introduction

Sustainable agriculture and food culture

Beras International¹ is a foundation whose purpose is to promote education, information, research and development on holistic thinking on regenerative organic agriculture, sustainable food systems and sustainable food societies/ Bio districts.

Beras has received funding from the Axel and Margaret Ax: son Johnson Foundation for Science for the dissemination of research findings on agriculture and food culture.

The objective of our work is as follows:

- Make a review of scientific research related to the concept of True Cost Accounting for the hidden costs of food and the potential positive contributions from organic on health, climate and biodiversity
- Disseminate these research results through publications, seminars, conferences, exhibitions etc.

The aim is to reach out with a clear message to a broad audience that includes all actors in the food chain from farm to table, authorities, education, research and NGOs.

The work focuses on a number of issues:

0. True Cost Accounting for the hidden costs of food (TCA) as an **eye-opener** and motivator for concrete action.

¹ <https://en.berasinternational.se>

1. Is there relevant research describing the benefits of sustainable agriculture and food culture **opening the pathway for the next phase of organic.**
2. Which messages are marketable to which target groups?
3. What initiatives and channels should be used to disseminate and invite concrete action and within this a particular focus on the role of Bio districts (Organic districts)

2. Studies

We have reviewed around 50 scientific papers, 13 of which were on True Cost Accounting for the hidden cost of food (TCA) and the rest on impacts and opportunities in health, climate and biodiversity and with a focus on organics.

The outcome of selected studies within the TCA estimates hidden costs of food at USD 12 - 19 trillion in addition to global food expenditure.

- Broken down by country, the bulk, 75%, of the costs originate from high and upper middle-income countries. Low-income countries account for only 3% and lower-middle-income countries for the remaining 22% according to the FAO.
- Hidden costs of food are growing strongly, mainly driven by increased health related problems from unhealthy diets.
- The environmental (climate and biodiversity) hidden costs of food are ultimately even greater given the transformation of nature and the costs of managing and mitigating impacts such as wildfires, floods, storms, extreme heat, etc.

Opportunities related to positive health and environmental impacts have been studied by several researchers:

- Tillman & Clark demonstrates the environmental and health benefits of Mediterranean, pescetarian and vegetarian diets.
- The BioNutrinetSanté study shows a correlation between organic diets and health benefits, with significant positive effects on overweight and obesity, coronary heart disease, diabetes type 2 and some type of cancers.
- Two meta-studies by Rahman and Jiang show positive health effects of organic food
- Biodynamic systems in the FiBL - DOK study produced 63% lower greenhouse gas emissions than conventional ones, and all fertility and diversity indicators were better in the biodynamic/organic systems.
- The Swedish researcher Arthur Granstedt et al. shows that net-zero greenhouse gas emissions can be achieved with ecological recycling agriculture, where greenhouse gas emissions are offset by, among other things, carbon sequestration in the soil.
- The EAT Lancet Commission presents a global framework for creating a sustainable food system, "The Planetary Health Diet".

A. THE CONCEPT OF TRUE COST ACCOUNTING FOR HIDDEN COSTS OF FOOD

1. Introduction to True Cost Accounting² for hidden cost of food.

True cost accounting for hidden costs of food (TCA) is a holistic and systemic way of measuring and valuing the environmental, social, health and economic costs and benefits generated by food systems to facilitate better decisions by policy makers, businesses, farmers, investors and consumers.

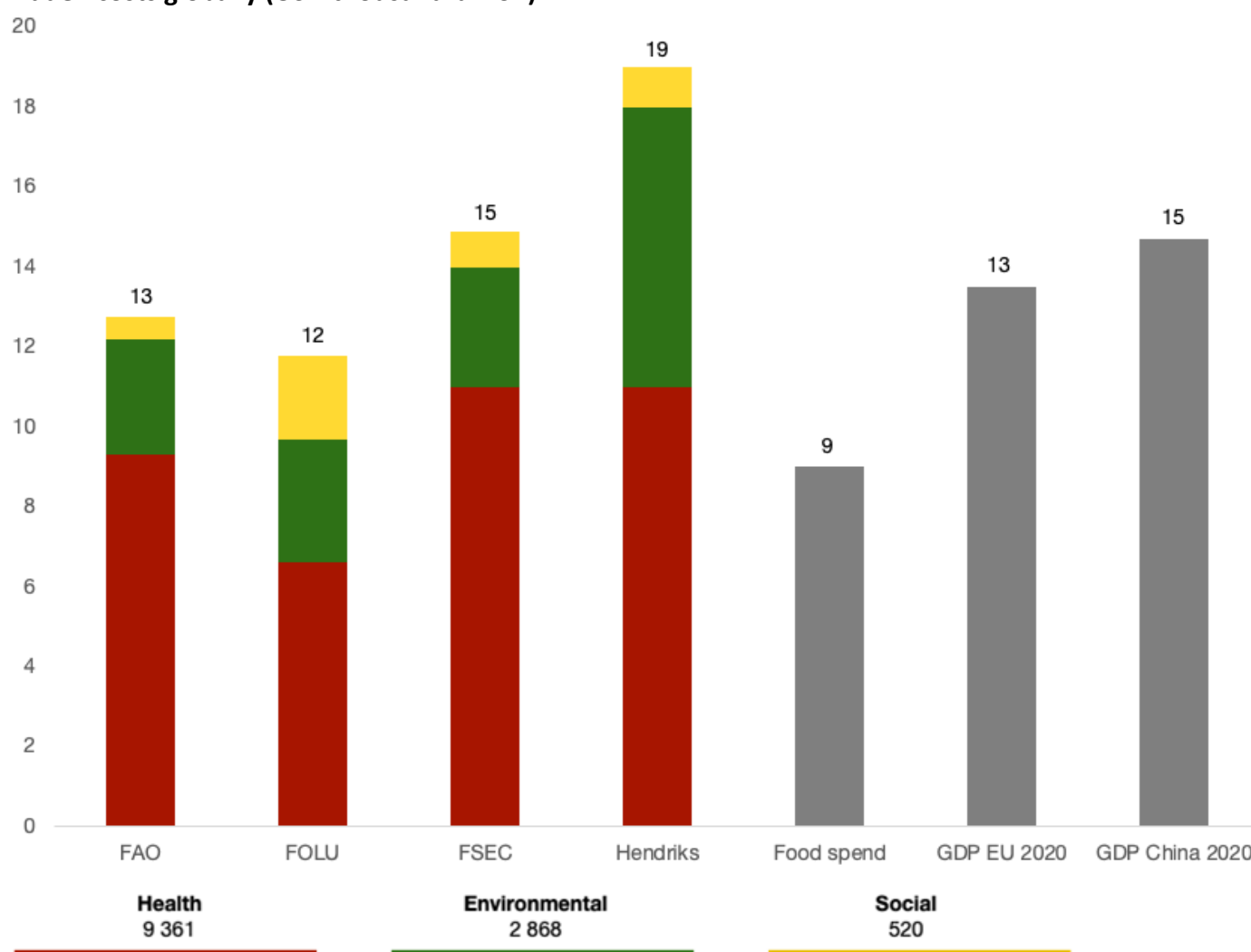
It is a methodology that, in addition to market transactions, measures and values all flows into and out of agricultural systems, including those not captured by market transactions, so-called hidden costs or externalities. Valuation can be either qualitative or quantitative, and in possible cases monetary.

2. Global hidden costs of food - an overview from all scientific papers studied.

*The cost is estimated at 12 - 19 thousand billion USD on top of global food expenditure- **the columns in grey are in comparison global food spend and GDP of EU and China!***

² FAO, The State of Food and Agriculture (2023), <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc7724en>

Hidden costs globally (USD thousand billion)



The graph shows the average and range of four studies; FAO³, FOLU⁴, FSEC⁵ and Hendriks⁶. The variation between these is driven by differences in what is included, what year is referred to, how cost impacts are calculated and what models are used. However, the ambition in all cases is to assess total global hidden costs of the food system.

Broken down by country, the bulk, 75%, of the costs originate from high and upper middle-income countries. Low-income countries account for only 3% and lower-middle-income countries for the remaining 22% according to the FAO.

Hidden costs are growing strongly, mainly driven by increased health-related problems from unhealthy diets which increased by 14% between 2016-2023 according to the FAO. Global hidden costs in 2050 are estimated to exceed USD 16 trillion according to FOLU.

The environmental hidden costs can be much higher if the tipping point is approached, given the transformation of nature and the costs of managing and mitigating impacts such as floods, storms, temperature, etc.

³ FAO, The State of Food and Agriculture (2023), <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc7724en>

⁴ FOLU, The Global Consultation Report of the Food and Land Use Coalition (2019), Annex

⁵ Food System Economics Commission (FSEC), The Economics of the Food System Transformation Global Policy Report (2024)

⁶ Sheryl Hendriks et al, The True Cost of Food : A Preliminary Assessment, Science and Innovations for Food Systems Transformation (2023)

Health effects are valued on the basis of GDP lost due to illness and death, so medical costs and a valuation of lives are not included in the studies, except for Hendrik's, which is based on a global average for the loss of human life.

B. THE POTENTIAL POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ORGANIC ON HEALTH, CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY

1. Health and environmental effects – Nature 2014, Tilmann & Clark⁷

[Tilmann and Clark, Global diets link environmental sustainability and human health, Nature \(2014\)](#)

Diets link the environment and human health. Rising incomes and urbanisation are driving a global dietary shift in which traditional diets are being replaced by diets higher in refined sugar, refined fats, oils and meat. This study summarises results from ten million man-years of observations across eight cohort studies. For each study, reported health effect after statistical control is used to compare disease incidence in individuals who consumed typical omnivorous diets with those who had diets classified as Mediterranean, pescetarian or vegetarian.

These alternative diets offer significant health benefits and, if widely adopted, could reduce global agriculture's greenhouse gas emissions, reduce deforestation and associated species extinction, and help prevent diet-related chronic non-communicable diseases.

Here are some overall figures indicating potential reductions in health risks and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

- Type II diabetes: 25% reduction
- Cancer: 12% reduction
- Coronary mortality: 25% reduction
- Greenhouse gas emissions reducing ruminant meat: Down to 1/5

2. Health effects - BioNutrinetSanté⁸

These studies show associations between organic diets and positive benefits with all reported health areas such as overweight and obesity, metabolic syndrome, type2 diabetes and cancers.

The NutriNet Sante Cohort Study is a web-based prospective study since 2009 of adults with the aim of studying the relationship between nutrition and health outcomes and examining the relationship with various dietary and nutritional determinants. From 2013 organic food was studied “BioNutrinetSanté”. Up to 2020, the base has amounted to 170 000 persons

A questionnaire surveyed people's habits across 16 food groups and identified organic frequency such as never, sometimes or mostly to make an organic profile which was matched with the prevalence of organic options for 264 food items to estimate the proportion of organic diet in a group. The model was adjusted for sociodemographic characteristics, lifestyle such as smoking and exercise, dietary patterns, BMI, etc.

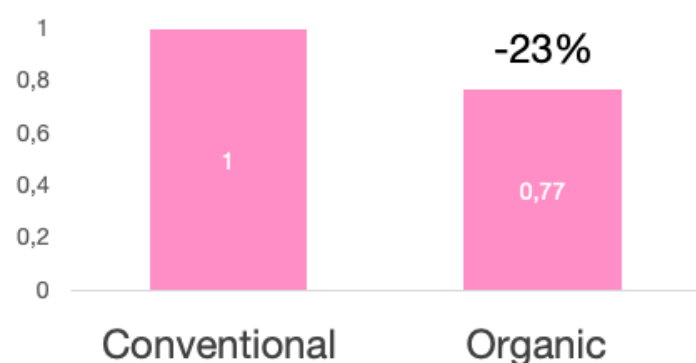
Regular consumers of organic products show specific socio-demographic characteristics (women, higher level of education, more physical activity, less smoking, fewer low-income earners) healthier dietary patterns (more plant-based), more customised food based on nutritional recommendations

⁷ [Tilmann and Clark, Global diets link environmental sustainability and human health, Nature \(2014\)](#)

⁸ [Lairon et al, NutriNet-Santé cohort study \(2021\)](#)

Relationships between nutrition and overweight

Relative risk of overweight

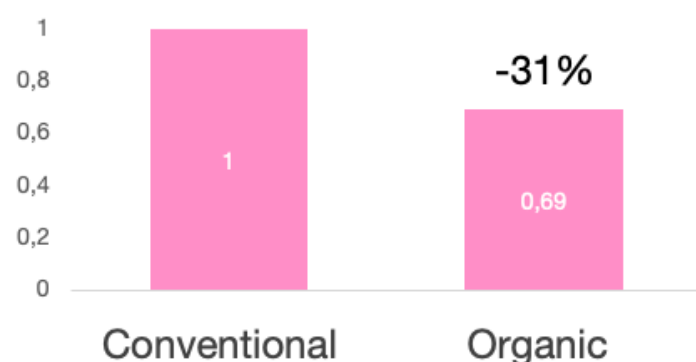


Parameters

- n = 62 200
- 77% women
- 3.1 year mean follow-up
- Organic food consumption refers to a mean of 70 %

Relationships between nutrition and obesity

Relative risk of obesity

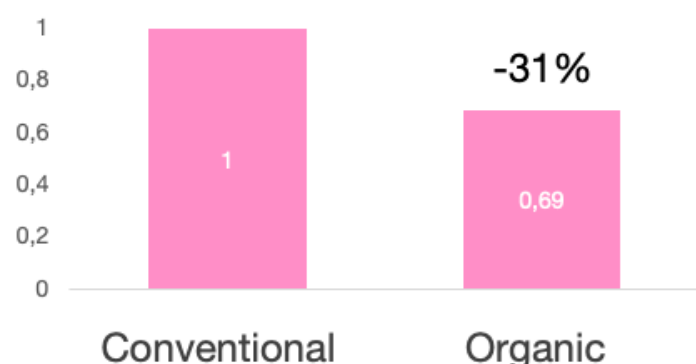


Parameters

- n = 62 200
- 77% women
- 3.1 year mean follow-up
- Organic food consumption refers to a mean of 70 %

Relationships between nutrition and metabolic syndrome

Relative risk of metabolic syndrome

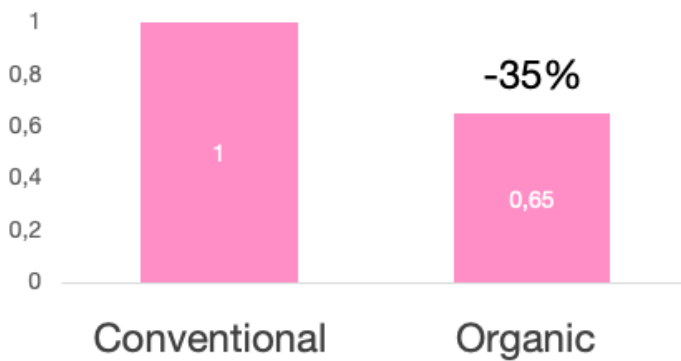


Parameters

- n = 8 174
- Both genders
- 3.1 year mean follow-up
- Organic food consumption refers to a mean of 62%

Relationships between nutrition and Type2 diabetes

Relative risk of Type2 diabetes

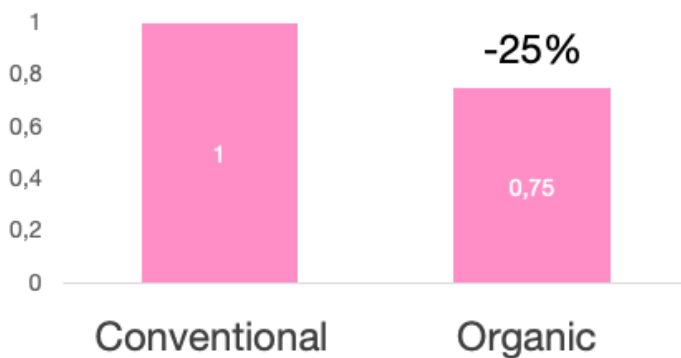


Parameters

- n = 32 800
- 76% women, mean age 53 years
- 4 year mean follow-up
- Organic food consumption refers to a mean of 56 %
- 293 incident cases identified

Relationships between nutrition and cancer (all types)

Relative risk of cancer



Parameters

- n = 70 192
- 78% women, mean age 44 years without known cancer at inclusion
- 4,6 year mean follow-up
- Organic food consumption refers to a mean of 75 %
- Lymphoma (-76%)-(-86%)

A sub-study shows a link between pesticides and breast cancer

Some pesticides, used in large quantities in current agricultural practices across Europe are suspected to have adverse effects on human reproductive health (breast and prostate cancer), as observed in agricultural settings.

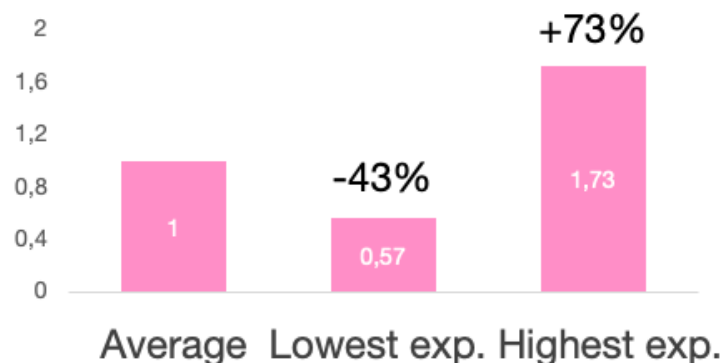
In 2014, participants completed a self-administered semi-quantitative food frequency questionnaire that distinguished conventional and organic foods.

Exposures to 25 active substances used in EU plant protection products were estimated using a database of pesticide residues related to agricultural practices.

The lowest exposure to synthetic pesticide mixtures was associated with 43% reduced risk of breast cancer. Highest exposure to synthetic pesticide mixtures was associated with 73% increased risk of breast cancer, especially in obese women (+413%)

Relationships between pesticide exposure and breast cancers

Relative risk of breast cancer



Parameters

- n = 13 149
- Postmenopausal women, mean age 44 years without known cancer at inclusion
- 4,8 year mean follow-up
- Exposures to 25 active substances were modelled

3. Health effects of organic – Meta studies by Rahman et al⁹

Meta-study by Rahman et al "A Comprehensive Analysis of Organic Food" shows positive health effects of organic food for obesity, blood nutrients composition and some forms of cancers.

Various health benefits have been associated with higher consumption of organic foods. This review identified some of these health benefits, including a reduction in obesity and body mass, BMI, improvements in blood nutrient composition, as well as reductions in maternal obesity and pregnancy-related risks of pre-eclampsia. Furthermore, consumption of organic food can reduce the development of non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) and colon cancer.

After reviewing the existing literature regarding the nutritional value of organic foods, it was found that organic food contained higher levels of iron, magnesium and vitamin C.

4. Health effects of organic – Meta studies by Jiang¹⁰

Meta-study by Jiang et al "The effects of organic food on human health" shows positive health effects of organic food for obesity and other effects related to less pesticide exposure in organic food.

This study shows that consumption of organic food was found to reduce pesticide exposure, and the overall effect on diseases and functional changes (BMI and male sperm quality) was noticeable. More long-term studies are needed, especially for single diseases.

5. Environmental impacts - FiBL¹¹

The DOK trial - FiBL compares biodynamic, organic and conventional systems since 1978.

The Research Institutes of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) are governmental independent social institutions or non-profit organisations operating as foundations or associations in different European countries. In Switzerland alone there are 80 researchers on organic.

The DOK trial by FiBL compares biodynamic, organic and conventional (integrated) farming systems since 1978, mimicking real farming practices divided into crop plots.

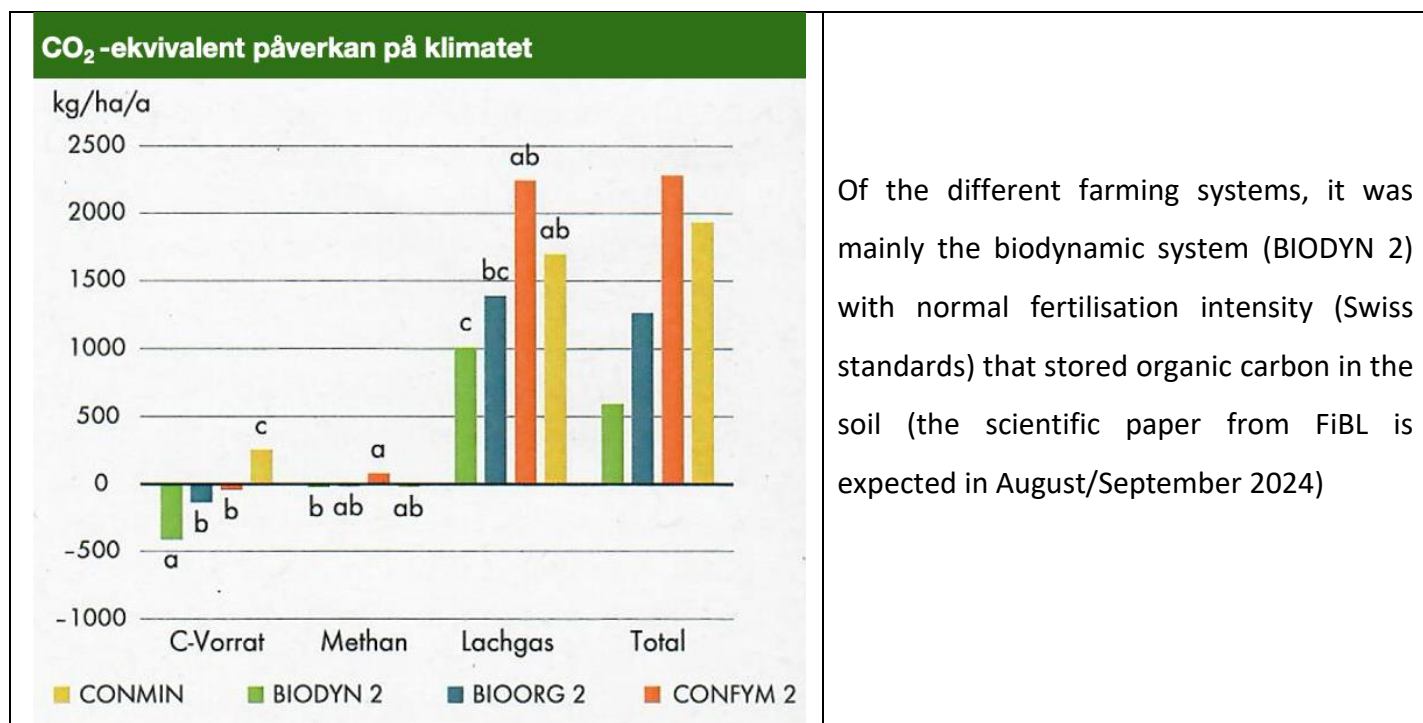
Below some of the results from the DOK trial:

- Overall, greenhouse gas emissions per unit area were 63% lower in BIODYN and 44% lower in BIOORG than in the conventional system (CONFYM).

⁹ Rahman et al, A Comprehensive Analysis of Organic Food: Evaluating Nutritional Value and Impact on Human Health, Foods (2024), <https://doi.org/10.3390/foods13020208>

¹⁰ Jiang et al, The effects of organic food on human health: a systematic review and meta-analysis of population-based studies, Nutrition Reviews (2023)

¹¹ FiBL Dossier, Der DOK-Versuch (2024)



Of the different farming systems, it was mainly the biodynamic system (BIODYN 2) with normal fertilisation intensity (Swiss standards) that stored organic carbon in the soil (the scientific paper from FiBL is expected in August/September 2024)

- The lowest nitrogen emissions were also measured in the BIODYN system. The high emission rates in CONFYM 2 and CONMIN are due to high levels of nitrogen fertiliser.
- After 20 years of cultivation, all soil fertility indicators showed better values in the organic systems than in the conventional ones, and especially in the BIODYN systems.

6. Environmental impacts - Artur Granstedt et al¹²

At farm level, net-zero greenhouse gases can be achieved with ecological recycling Agriculture

The study is based on 30 Swedish organic recycling farms distributed across the country with different climates, soil conditions, sizes and production orientations. The farms have:

- Crop rotations with high proportion ($\geq 50\%$) of legume-grass swards (2-4 years); fixing nitrogen for subsequent crops and sequestering carbon in the soil, at least 400 kg C/ha and year (~ 1500 kg CO₂e)
- Integration with livestock (mostly ruminants) and manure recirculation.

C. THE ROLE OF BIO-DISTRICTS (ORGANIC DISTRICTS) IN FACILITATING THE INCLUSIVE PROCESS ADVOCATING FOR AND IMPLEMENTING THE TRANSFORMATION NEEDED FOR FARMING, FOOD AND LIFESTYLE.

The EU Commission has defined a Bio district as follows:

"A 'Bio district' is a geographical area where farmers, the public, tourist operators, associations and public authorities enter into an agreement for the sustainable management of local resources, based on organic principles and practices. The aim is to maximise the economic and sociocultural potential of the territory. Each Bio district' includes lifestyle, nutrition, human relations and nature considerations. This results in local agricultural production that is appreciated by consumers and hence has a higher market value."

Ref "Action Plan for the Development of Organic Production" <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/DOC/?uri=CELEX:52021DC0141>

Presently there are 60 Bio-Districts in Europe and a growing number globally <https://gaod.online/> The first Bio districts was established in Cilento, Italy in 2004. The network includes organisations such as IFOAM Organics International, IFOAM EU, IFOAM Asia, Asian Local Governments for Organic Farming "ALGOA", IN.N.E.R.,

¹² [Granstedt et al, Framtidssäkrat jordbruk \(2023\)](#)

Regeneration International, the UN Core initiative Organic Food System Programme “OFSP”, LOAMC – PH from the Philippines and Baltic Foundation.

Network of Ecoregions “IN.N.E.R.” provides support to the start-up and management of Bio districts, examples on work groups, guiding documents and a Monitoring Tool for the performance of the districts [https://gaod.online/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Organic Districts Introduction Tool Kit.pdf](https://gaod.online/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Organic_Districts_Introduction_Tool_Kit.pdf)

A number of research articles has been published related to Bio districts.

There are yearly conferences/Summits and every 5 year a World Congress.

In view of available resources flowing from strategies from the EU Commission, R&D and proof of concepts, we assume that Bio districts have a vital role in facilitating the inclusive process advocating for and implementing the transformation needed for farming, food, equal rights and lifestyle.

	<i>Food Health</i> Ana Luísa Alves, Maria Inês Ferreira, Maria João Ferreira e Maria Margarida Ferreira Talho das Manas
Title The role of food in our health and the health of the planet	
	<i>Food Health</i> Ana Música Amuse Bouche
Title The health of Gastronomy: creativity is the best medicine!	
	<i>Food Health</i> Luísa Almeida Quinta do Arneiro
Title “Healthy” farmers can produce healthy food	

	<i>Food Health</i> Guy Singh-Watson Riverford
Title From wheel barrow to £100m and back	
	<i>One Health</i> Alvaro Beleza Doctor
Title Quality of life gives health	
	<i>One Health</i> Rodrigo Ayoub Doctor
Title Healthy environment, healthy body!	
	<i>One Health</i> Koen Deckx, Evy's Bees, Lda
Title Evy's Bees Project	

CONGRESS TRACKS CONTRIBUTIONS

Track 1: Organic Districts' Integrated Management, Planning, Governance and Policies

	Juan Pablo Sciurano Argentina Sociologist (University of Buenos Aires), Master in ethical and environmental certification processes for sustainable development (University of Bologna) and PhD in Sustainability Economics (University of Parma). • IN.N.E.R. Coordinator for Latin America and Sebia, and member of the Scientific Committee. • Professor of the subject Biodistricts for Sustainable Territorial Development in the School of Agriculture of the University of Buenos Aires (FAUBA) • Experience of more than 15 years in the implementation of international programs and projects linked to territorial development from organic production in Latin America, Europe, the Middle East and Africa financed by the United Nations, the European Union and different National Governments. • Board member of Agroecology Europe Association.
Title Integrating organic and agroecological approaches for Eco Regions development. Latin America initiatives and perspectives.	
Summary Eco-Regions are marked by a multifunctional farming approach in which each presents singular lifestyles, cultural and social relations and specific natural environments. The development process can either be top down or bottom up; in most cases both approaches are part of the institutional relationship between the stakeholders. At the same time, it development can be endogenous: which means closely to food sovereignty concepts based on accessible, healthy and quality food for local populations and an exogenous one, centered on high value products for external markets and tourism. In many cases the endogenous is more related with agroecological approaches and exogenous with organic ones. Regionalization cannot follow common pattern in all territories; as example, in many regions of Latin America large geographical and productive extensions coexist with low demographic concentrations far from large urban centers, meanwhile in others the proximity between production and consumption can generate very different characteristics at the bioregion scales and territorial dimensions. We analyzed different cases from Latin America identifying different patterns on exogenous/endogenous and organic/agroecological interrelations. We conclude that for developing an Eco-Region with a deep neo endogenous process which could integrate harmonized positive endogenous and exogenous outputs at the territorial level, the coexistence and assemblage of different organic and agroecological approaches and the agreement on common and articulated processes are essential for the development of Eco-Regions. INNER Tool kit in this sense can support this process at different levels and reinforce and articulate with clarity the different levels of Eco Region development.	



Patrizia Pugliese

Italy

Sustainable Development, MSc in Rural Resources and Countryside Management. She has twenty-five-year experience in research, training and development cooperation work on rural development, sustainable and organic agriculture in EU and developing countries, with deeper expertise in the Mediterranean region and focus on rural economy diversification, sustainable and inclusive value chain development, place-based and eco-region approaches to territorial development. Current fields of interest and work also include rural women's empowerment and meaningful participation to agri-food value chains and rural economy, agroecological transitions, organic districts and sustainable organic food systems. Author of various scientific contributions, with participation to different EU-funded research projects. Member of the CIHEAM Bari Secretariat of the Mediterranean Organic Agriculture Network (MOAN). Focal point for CIHEAM Bari Institute of CIHEAM corporate Working Group on Gender.

Title

CIHEAM Bari's commitment for the development of organic districts in the Mediterranean area.



Samia Maamer

Tunisia

Founder of the General Directorate of Organic Agriculture and the Competent Authority for the Organic Sector at the Ministry of Agriculture-TUNISIA since June 2010.

An active builder committed to sustainable development throughout her multifaceted professional life, she has been in charge of the national olive sector since 1988 and Founder of the organic agriculture sector in Tunisia since 1997. She has to her credit the establishment of: the first organic regulation in Africa and the Arab countries, the control and traceability system, the institutionalization, and the credibility of the Tunisian organic sector. This gave him the honor of being the contact with the European Commission for the equivalence of Tunisia as a third country since 2009: the only African and Arab country to benefit from it. She initiated the creation of the first peasant school in the world in organic agriculture (2004), fair and sustainable biotourism in Tunisia and the creation and design of 5 bio-territories in Tunisia, the first in Africa. She is an active member of INNER since 2015 and has participated in numerous events and congresses relating to bio-territories (Italy, Portugal, South Korea, Philippines, etc.) She is today its manager in Africa. In addition to having been General Director, she teaches organic agriculture, control, and regulation for master's students. She is President of the audit commission of control and certification bodies, administrator of the technical center for organic agriculture and representative of the authorities of 80 countries in the impartiality committee of the largest control and certification body in the world. She contributed to the formation of the Francophonie Institute for Sustainable Development's sustainable development analysis grid. Samia Maamer

	is a founding-active member of the Mediterranean organic agriculture network since 2006 and an international expert in ITF (international task force for the harmonization of organic agriculture regulations in the world (FAO-UNCTAD-IFOAM)) since 2005. Active member of the Tounes Wejhatouna project, the largest tourism program otherwise in Tunisia (Culinary Route, UNESCO Heritage Route, etc.). Ardent believer in the Tunisian organic model by 2030 and its adaptation to all African and Arab countries, it has started expert missions with a view to developing South-South cooperation in Organic Agriculture (Republic of Seychelles, Algeria, etc.) since 2015. An agronomist engineer (National Agronomic Institute of Tunis) since 1987, she has numerous publications at the national and international level. With the little time remaining, she is an organic farmer.
--	--

Title

Initiative for the development of bioterritories in French-speaking Africa.

Summary

This initiative, led by African skills in partnership with IN.N.E.R. International Association, aims to develop bio-territories in French-speaking Africa.

Indeed, the development of bio-territories around the world has proven itself as a trigger for local socio-economic growth dynamics, particularly in regions with high migratory potential, contributing to the protection of the environment and the conservation of biodiversity. , the resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems in the face of climate change, the protection of organic production, the promotion of its multifunctional role and its synergy with other sectors of the local economy such as agritourism, crafts , culture, etc....

French-speaking Africa with its 28 countries, its agricultural and forest lands, and its emerging organic agriculture, its biodiversity, its ancestral local know-how, the experiences already present in organic agriculture, ... so many potentials for development of bio-territories.

This is the colossal challenge in which this initiative of men and women experts in the field faces the mosaic of lifestyle, nutrition, human relations and the nature of the territories in the different pilot countries to consider. The call is open for all relevant organizations and bodies to join us in this wonderful initiative.

	Ignazio Cirronis Chiara Medda Italy Organic farmer, Promoter and President of the BioDistrict “South Sardinia and Sulcis Archipelago”, President of COPAGRI Sardinia (Agricultural Union), President of ANAPROBIO (National Association of Organic Producers linked with COPAGRI Agricultural Union).
---	---

Title

The BioDistrict: an opportunity to change the area's economy toward sustainability.

Summary

Starting from the organized Chains, the BioDistrict builds socio-economic relations by implementing new relationships between different economic sectors, Institutions, cultural and tourism non profit, consumer and ecologist Organizations. Organic producers are protagonists of change by leading Organic Supply Chains on the market and in society with innovative events (BioFestival, Energy Communities, BioHORECA Networks and BIO direct sales)and verification and monitoring of their activities (ecological footprint of organic farms).



Ivana Simić

Serbia

Ivana Simić is an agronomist with a Master's degree in Phytomedicine i.g. protection of plants and food products and a Master's degree in Organic agriculture. She has experience in the organic field for more than 15 years. She has been an Associate teacher at the Agricultural Faculty of the University of Belgrade, department of Agro-ecology and Agro-Tehcnical Practises on the subject "Basic principles of organic production".

She was one of the founders of the National Association Serbia Organica, Belgrade, where she holds the position of General Secretary, and Legal Representative.

She has been an advisor for Organic Production to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management.

She is the Head of the national team for developing Bio Districts in Serbia.

She has managed and coordinated more than 40 national and international projects with the aim of development, advancement and promotion of organic production.

She was one of the creators of three National promotional campaigns on organic.

She has created over 40 educational programs, as well as organised and participated as a lecturer at over 50 trainings/workshops for farmers, advisers, trainers, inspectors, teachers, etc. on organic production. She is a member of the Council of Organic Production of the Ministry of Agriculture and many national organic sector groups.

He is the co-author of the Organic Agriculture curriculum. She is the co-author of the Mapping Agroecology in Serbia (Agroecology Europe). She was also the author and co-author more than 25 guides, manuals, publications, studies, annual reports, and professional papers. She is the Editor of the online magazine of Serbia Organica – “Organic News”, (2011- to date).

Title

Opportunity for Organic Districts in Serbia.

Summary

Bio/organic/eco districts, also known as bioregions, are areas where farmers, citizens, authorities, and other stakeholders collaborate to manage local resources sustainably. These regions adhere to the principles of organic farming and best agroecological practices. This approach addresses economic development trends that lead to rural depopulation and increased urbanization. By promoting sustainable resource management, biodistricts foster the economic and socio-cultural development of their communities, enhancing living conditions and incomes.

Serbia is deeply rooted in agricultural tradition, with over 5 million hectares of agricultural land and favorable climate conditions. This environment supports a diverse array of fruit and vegetable varieties, many of which are indigenous, as well as unique animal breeds. The country's agricultural heritage is a crucial part of its cultural identity, making the conservation of these traditions essential.

A key aspect of Serbia's agricultural policy is the prohibition of GMO food production. This ban, combined with a growing trend towards organic farming over the past decade, holds significant potential for preserving natural resources and advancing sustainable agriculture. Organic farming practices not only protect the environment but also enhance the quality and market value of agricultural products.

In 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency of the Republic of Serbia identified agricultural areas of high natural value, covering over 20% of the country's agricultural land. This identification, based on the European Environment Agency (EEA) approach, highlights the rich natural resources and traditional

agricultural landscapes of these areas. Recognizing these high-value agricultural lands underscores the importance of integrating sustainable practices into Serbia's agricultural sector.

The concept of biodistricts, which leads to the production of more valuable agricultural products, aligns well with Serbia's traditional practices. Bioregions create a virtuous cycle of sustainable agricultural production and processing, resulting in high-quality products appreciated both locally and in the market. This model is particularly compatible with Serbia's agricultural context, where traditional methods and modern sustainable practices can coexist and thrive.

One of the key initiatives in Serbia is the establishment of the Kolubara district in the western part of the country as the first biodistrict in the Balkans. This pioneering effort makes Serbia the first country in Southeast Europe to implement such a model. The creation of the Kolubara Biodistrict involved a comprehensive assessment of territorial conditions, the development of partnerships within the target area, and the initiation of various activities to promote sustainable development.

The activities in the Kolubara Biodistrict cover several focus areas: integrated management, organic farming, agroecology, natural resource management, energy production, tourism, gastronomy, food and nutrition security, quality and health, communication, and youth engagement. These initiatives aim to foster holistic development, leveraging Serbia's agricultural strengths to boost the economy, enhance tourism, and promote sustainable practices.

By integrating these diverse activities, the Kolubara Biodistrict aims to serve as a model for future development in Serbia's agriculture, tourism, and economic sectors. This initiative demonstrates the potential of bioregions to drive sustainable growth, preserve cultural heritage, and improve the quality of life for rural communities, ensuring a resilient and prosperous future for Serbia.

	Dijana Posavec Croatia Centar dr. Rudolf Steiner, Donji Kraljevec, Medjimurje County, Croatia. Dijana Posavec, Ph.D. director of the Dr. Rudolf Steiner Center, which is located in Dr. Steiner's birthplace. The institution is the reference center for biodynamic agriculture in the Republic of Croatia. Member of the board and committee at the Ministry of Agriculture. Guest lecturer at various scientific institutions.
Title Donji Kraljevec, Medjimurje County, Croatia – <i>Land in which dr. Rudolf Steiner founder of biodynamic agriculture was born -</i>	
Summary Međimurje County is a leader in the Republic of Croatia in the sector of sustainable development, which also includes sustainable tourism. The efforts and long-term dedicated work of Međimurje County and its Tourist Board to create sustainable tourism content have been recognized at the world and national level. This is evidenced by numerous awards and certificates such as the European Destinations of Excellence (EDEN) received in 2007, 2015 and 2019, then the Swiss tourism Awards in 2016, the annual Croatian tourism awards where the Međimurje County won the title in the "Destination of the Year" category. The most successful destinations of continental Croatia in 2019 and the most successful Croatian sustainable tourism destinations - Smart destination in 2022. Many ecotourism entities within the Međimurje County have received various certificates that testify to their contribution to sustainable tourism, with a special emphasis on the Eco label certificate received in the Republic of Croatia by Holiday Home Lina, as the first rural holiday home, and Terme Sveti Martin as the first hotel for "green business". That this is a region that invests considerable effort and effort in sustainable practices and tourism is also evidenced by the world	

certificate "Green destinations", which the Međimurje County received in 2023, thus becoming the first region in the Republic of Croatia and the fourth in the world with this prestigious certificate. In recognition of all previous efforts in the promotion of sustainable development, Međimurje County is also the first in Croatia to be invited to become a member of the world association "BIO DISTRICT", which promotes sustainable agriculture and development. It is a region that continuously works to improve its sustainable practices, with the aim of preserving natural resources and cultural heritage, while providing a unique and responsible tourist experience.

The Dr. Rudolf Steiner Center is also located in Međimurje County as a multidisciplinary institution that combines science, art and tourism based on the science and knowledge of Dr. Rudolf Steiner. The center also manages Dr. Rudolf Steiner's birthplace located in Donji Kraljevac, which has been a meeting place for many visitors from all over the world for many years. The institution conducts a large number of educations and workshops, and organizes national and international seminars and conferences in the field of activity of Dr. Rudolf Steiner with a special emphasis on biodynamic agriculture and sustainable development. The section for biodynamic agriculture in the Goetheanum included the Dr. Rudolf Steiner Center as an educational point in the world of biodynamic agricultural practice.

Through a short presentation by the director of the Center Dr. Rudolf Steiner, Ph.D. Dijana Posavec, we would present the work and activities of the Center as well as positive examples and practices of sustainable policies that we implement at the national and global level. The numerous workshops, lectures, courses and other activities that we conduct and which we publish daily on our social and web pages testify to the fact that an increasing number of interested people strive for sustainable, i.e., biodynamic agricultural practices.

<https://centar-rudolf-steiner.com/>



Jostein Hertwig

Sweden

Jostein has more than 30 years' experience in Law, international business development, cooperation, networking and negotiations. He has been a lecturer in Food and Environment at University of Stavanger, Norway. He started an organic farm in Norway and managed this for 12 years. The initiative also included an organic food shop, bakery, juicery and social work. Jostein is COB of BERAS International Foundation. The foundation works with research, development, education, implementation and communication of results and practical examples within the concepts of Ecological Regenerative Agriculture, Diets for a Green Planet and Bio districts. He is one of 2 coordinators and member of the Steering Committee of Organic Food System Programme (OFSP). OFSP is a Core initiative in United Nations programme for Sustainable Food Systems under Sustainable Development Goal no 12 "Sustainable Production and Consumption". He is member of Board of Directors of Organic Food Quality and Health and Executive Director of the "Global Alliance for Organic Districts". Starting from January 2023 Jostein leads the development of a new Bio district in the Stockholm Region in Sweden and within the framework of the EU, Baltic Sea Region, project KISMET.

Title

Bio district Sörmland, Sweden

Summary

Bio district Sörmland is situated in the landscape south of Stockholm, Sweden. The area includes two regions and 21 municipalities with a population of 1.2 billion. Approximately 20% of the agriculture land is organic

with a focus on organic food in kindergartens and schools. Some local supermarkets have more than 30% of their sales in organic.

The aim of Bio district Sörmland is:

- to make regional organic products available to consumers such as restaurants, public kitchens and individuals by strengthening the infrastructure for local food production.
- to enhance diversity in the landscape and within the actors of the food system.
- to raise awareness about the positive impact of organic food for health, environmental, social and economic sustainability.
- encourage prosperous and viable livelihood and rural development
- Strengthen a sustainable tourist sector.



Darko Znaor

The Netherlands

Dr Znaor is an experienced expert (>30 years) with project references in 25 European and 6 Asian countries. Darko has been a team leader and/or consultant at >150 projects for the World Bank, OECD, European Commission, UN agencies (FAO, UNECE, UNDP, and UNEP), USAID, EU MS Governmental organisations, British and EU MS universities, consultancies, and accounting firms. The projects have spanned policy analysis and advice, project/programme evaluations, education, training, and research. His expertise covers a range of cross-cutting issues related to value chain analysis in the agri-food sector, agricultural economics, agricultural policy, rural development, agriculture and the environment, organic farming, and agri-environment. Darko holds a PhD in environmental sciences (University of Essex, UK) and is the first European with an MSc in organic agriculture (1992: Wageningen University, NL). He is the author of >140 publications (including a 467-page book) and was a visiting lecturer/researcher at the British, Dutch, Belgian, Italian, and Bulgarian universities, including 12 years at the Dutch WUR.

Title

Assessment of a Bioregion's Health Check

Summary

Introduction:

Avalon Foundation has developed a unique tool that enables the assessment of Bioregions' health check. This assessment shows (regional) policymakers, farmers/environmental organisations, or other stakeholders how far their region is from the broader adoption of organic farming and highlights the critical aspects they must focus on.

Method:

The assessment is built around a participatory approach involving key regional stakeholders and stimulating cross-sectoral cooperation and interplay between the relevant sectors. It is based on clear, measurable criteria and parameters, employing a Weighted Scoring Model approach. This enables an assessment of natural and social capital playing key roles in the wider adoption of organic farming.

Each natural and social capital criterion is assigned a weight to reflect its importance. For instance, in the social capital assessment, the existence of sound knowledge and dissemination programmes (= research &

education, demo projects, and extension services) is deemed to be somewhat less important than the existence of an appropriate policy (= an Action Plan for the development of organic farming, with an appropriate budget and ambitious targets).

Each criterion is assigned a numerical score following the quantitative and qualitative analysis. By multiplying the score of each criterion by its weight, we calculate a weighted score for each criterion. Adding the obtained values results in the Bioregion Health Check Index score. This composite index is derived from weighted scores of social and natural capital criteria assessments. It is provided both for the baseline and the situation expected after upscaling organic farming, e.g. 7 or 10 years later.

Social capital is assessed in an iterative and participatory process with relevant stakeholders from the target region. Natural capital is rated using region-specific farming and environmental data. Agro-biodiversity and soil health are assessed by employing unique and innovative digital technology based on near-infrared spectroscopy and other image-making techniques used by satellites, low-flying planes, and drones.

Results:

This assessment is still under development. Some of its elements have been tested in Greidhoeke, a clay meadow region in central western Friesland, the Netherlands—one of the world's most sophisticated dairy production regions. The approach proved to provide an accurate, in-depth force field and social capital analysis, leading to a comprehensive action plan for paving the road for the Greidhoeke region to evolve into a Bioregion.

Conclusion:

Avalon's Bioregions' Health Check is a useful tool that enables regions to assess the human and social capital required to facilitate the transition to organic agriculture. Its baseline assessment provides an excellent account of a region's distance from the broader adoption of organic farming and highlights the critical aspects requiring additional attention. The 7-10 years later scenario shows the expected progress and results if natural capital is managed sustainably, and social capital is strengthened and directed towards accomplishing the targets set. Attractive, eye-catching dashboards enable easier communication of the results in the baseline and 7-10 years later.



Kesang Tshomo
Bhutan

Currently serving as an advisor to the Department of Agriculture at the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MOAL) in Bhutan. Previously, I was the Programme Manager and a specialist in organic sector development for the National Organic Flagship Programme at the Department of Agriculture, MOAL, Bhutan. I hail from Paro, Bhutan, and hold a B.Sc. in Applied Agriculture with a major in Horticulture and Irrigation Design Systems from the University of Adelaide, South Australia, and an M.Sc. in Horticulture (Plant Pathology) from Lincoln University, New Zealand. My career began in 1996 as a horticulture researcher, and I have served as the National Programme Coordinator for the National Organic Programme since 2003. Additionally, I was the Programme Director for the Research and Development Centre for Organic Agriculture for three years before becoming the National Programme Manager for the National Organic Flagship Programme. Over the past two decades, I have been dedicated to fostering an enabling environment for organic growth in Bhutan. My efforts have encompassed awareness, advocacy, education, pilot projects, research, extension development, regulation, certification, and market linkages both domestically and internationally. I have facilitated numerous collaborations with international institutions, students, and researchers for information documentation, collection, and research work. Under

	my leadership, Bhutan has transitioned from traditional farming practices to incorporating organic farming as a key government programme in the last four five-year plans. My personal and professional goals include contributing to the global organic movement in the Himalayan region and improving the livelihoods of farmers by enhancing support systems and services. I aim to empower farmers to access markets with the Bhutan Organic Brand and Grown in Bhutan-Organic products, while linking them to international certification systems.
--	---

Title

The Organic Journey of Bhutan.

	Verónica Santillán Ecuador Comisión Interamericana de Agricultura Orgánica (CIAO) Agencia de regulación y Control Fito y Zoonosanitario-Ecuador Agrocalidad
--	---

Title

Comisión Interamericana de Agricultura Orgánica (CIAO) -IICA, presentation and ICOAS members countries, an opportunities for the development of Biodistricts.

	Pavle Đorđević Serbia Serbia Organica, Biodistrict Kolubara Pavle Đorđević earned his master's degree at the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Belgrade, department of fruit growing and viticulture, as a student of the generation. He was doing on his research work at the Institute for Multidisciplinary Research on a topic in the field of regenerative agriculture. Pavle has more than 15 years of practical experience in the organic production of vegetables and fruits. He is the owner of the Organela farm, which deals with organic production, processing and distribution of organic products, as well as educating people about organic production and regenerative agriculture. In 2022, he completed The Organic Academy, Organic leadership Course. Pavle became one of the ambassadors of organic production in Serbia. Pavle is a Board Member of Serbia Organica and Coordinator of the Kolubara Biodistrict.
--	---

Title

Introduction of the first Biodistrict in a pilot region in Serbia.

Summary

Bio/organic/eco districts, also known as bioregions, are areas where farmers, citizens, authorities, and other stakeholders collaborate to manage local resources sustainably. These regions adhere to the principles of organic farming and best agroecological practices. This approach addresses economic development trends that lead to rural depopulation and increased urbanization. By promoting sustainable resource management, biodistricts foster the economic and socio-cultural development of their communities, enhancing living conditions and incomes.

Serbia is deeply rooted in agricultural tradition, with over 5 million hectares of agricultural land and favorable climate conditions. This environment supports a diverse array of fruit and vegetable varieties, many of which are indigenous,

as well as unique animal breeds. The country's agricultural heritage is a crucial part of its cultural identity, making the conservation of these traditions essential.

A key aspect of Serbia's agricultural policy is the prohibition of GMO food production. This ban, combined with a growing trend towards organic farming over the past decade, holds significant potential for preserving natural resources and advancing sustainable agriculture. Organic farming practices not only protect the environment but also enhance the quality and market value of agricultural products.

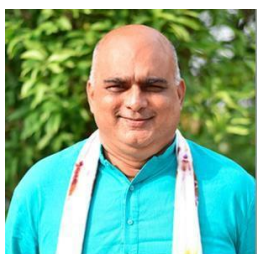
In 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency of the Republic of Serbia identified agricultural areas of high natural value, covering over 20% of the country's agricultural land. This identification, based on the European Environment Agency (EEA) approach, highlights the rich natural resources and traditional agricultural landscapes of these areas. Recognizing these high-value agricultural lands underscores the importance of integrating sustainable practices into Serbia's agricultural sector.

The concept of biodistricts, which leads to the production of more valuable agricultural products, aligns well with Serbia's traditional practices. Bioregions create a virtuous cycle of sustainable agricultural production and processing, resulting in high-quality products appreciated both locally and in the market. This model is particularly compatible with Serbia's agricultural context, where traditional methods and modern sustainable practices can coexist and thrive.

One of the key initiatives in Serbia is the establishment of the Kolubara district in the western part of the country as the first biodistrict in the Balkans. This pioneering effort makes Serbia the first country in Southeast Europe to implement such a model. The creation of the Kolubara Biodistrict involved a comprehensive assessment of territorial conditions, the development of partnerships within the target area, and the initiation of various activities to promote sustainable development.

The activities in the Kolubara Biodistrict cover several focus areas: integrated management, organic farming, agroecology, natural resource management, energy production, tourism, gastronomy, food and nutrition security, quality and health, communication, and youth engagement. These initiatives aim to foster holistic development, leveraging Serbia's agricultural strengths to boost the economy, enhance tourism, and promote sustainable practices.

By integrating these diverse activities, the Kolubara Biodistrict aims to serve as a model for future development in Serbia's agriculture, tourism, and economic sectors. This initiative demonstrates the potential of bioregions to drive sustainable growth, preserve cultural heritage, and improve the quality of life for rural communities, ensuring a resilient and prosperous future for Serbia.



Sundeep Srinivas Kamath

India

former Secretary of the Biodynamic Association of India & former Board Member of IFOAM Asia. Currently he is a Recognised Demeter/Biodynamic Advisor advising multiple projects in Bhutan, China, India, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, South Korea, Thailand and Türkiye and is the advisor for several associations like Demeter China, Demeter Malaysia & Demeter Türkiye. He is also the convenor of the Biodynamic Silk Route, launched in the 100th year of Biodynamic Agriculture.

Title

Potential Bio Districts along the Ancient Silk Road.

Summary

The Biodynamic Silk Road is a planned Association of multiple biodynamic farms on the old land & marine silk road. Currently we have interest shown from 4 initiatives in China, Iran & Türkiye & a couple from India, Malaysia & Thailand along with local governments in Croatia, Iran & Türkiye. Biodynamic agriculture is an approach to farming that emphasizes holistic, sustainable practices, taking into account the interconnectedness of soil health, plant growth, and animal welfare. The Silk Road, historically a network of trade routes connecting East and West, offers an intriguing context for exploring the application of biodynamic principles.

In the context of the "Biodynamic Silk Road," one could envision a modern-day initiative that combines biodynamic farming methods with the spirit of exchange and cultural interaction that characterized the

ancient Silk Road. This could involve: **Biodynamic Farming Practices:** Farmers along the Silk Road route could adopt biodynamic principles, which involve organic farming methods, composting, crop rotation, and the use of natural fertilizers and pest control methods. This approach not only promotes sustainable agriculture but also enhances soil fertility and biodiversity. **Cultural Exchange:** Just as the Silk Road facilitated the exchange of goods, ideas, and cultures between East and West, a Biodynamic Silk Road initiative could foster cultural exchange among communities practising biodynamic agriculture. This could involve knowledge sharing, workshops, and collaborative projects aimed at preserving traditional farming techniques and promoting sustainability. **Trade and Commerce:** In addition to promoting sustainable farming practices, the Biodynamic Silk Road could facilitate the trade of biodynamically grown products along its route. This could include not only agricultural products but also artisanal goods produced using traditional methods, such as textiles, ceramics, and handicrafts. **Tourism and Education:** The Biodynamic Silk Road could also attract tourists interested in sustainable agriculture, cultural heritage, and eco-friendly travel experiences. Educational programs, farm tours, and cultural events could further raise awareness about biodynamic farming and its benefits. **Environmental Conservation:** By promoting sustainable agriculture and reducing reliance on chemical inputs, the Biodynamic Silk Road could contribute to environmental conservation efforts along its route. This includes preserving biodiversity, mitigating soil erosion, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with conventional farming practices. Overall, the Biodynamic Silk Road represents a modern interpretation of the historical Silk Road, one that emphasizes sustainability, cultural exchange, and environmental stewardship. By connecting communities through shared values and practices, this initiative has the potential to promote a more harmonious relationship between humans and the natural world.



Track 2: Organic Districts' Outputs

Tourism, Gastronomy, Alternative Farming, Food Supply Chain, and Communication for Organic Districts.

	Divaldo Rezende Brazil Chair of the Social Carbon foundation. President of Wilder Earth. Director of Co-restore.
Title Co-Restore and Wilder	
	Ove D. Jakobsen Norway Centre for Ecological Economics and Ethics, Nord University Business School
Title Ecological Economics.	
	Emilio Buonomo Italy Architect, Director of Cilento Bio-District, President of IN.N.E.R.
Title Grand Tour Bio.	
Summary Every year many people move between the Organic Districts with various purposes: to get to know other organic communities, their traditions and cultures, good practices exchange, attend courses, workshops, do sports, enjoy the nature and natural landscapes, characterising the different organic territories. The Bio Grand Tour is a journey through the different Bio-Districts of the world, with itineraries designed by IN.N.E.R. experts, in close collaboration with local operators, to offer unique experiences of deep immersion in the real and fascinating life of the Bio-Districts. Tourism in Bio-District: a new concept of green tourism, focusing on environmental, social and cultural sustainability.	

The **Grand Tour Bio**, by allowing people to travel and discover the more than 1,300 organic territories in the world, contributes to the achievement of the sustainability goals set internationally by the United Nations and by the European Commission.

2030 United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development:

- the tourism sector is defined as an “engine of progress and protection” for the whole planet
- tourist activities are also considered as a valid “instrument of peace and mutual understanding between peoples”.

Redirecting touristic flows:

- sustainability is a theme that has become fundamental in the tourism sector over the years
- redirecting tourist flows is one of the first objectives necessary to reach a concrete sustainability
- it will be important to make the travelers able to find alternative periods and destinations ***in the most suitable ways.***

The help of ethical oriented new technologies:

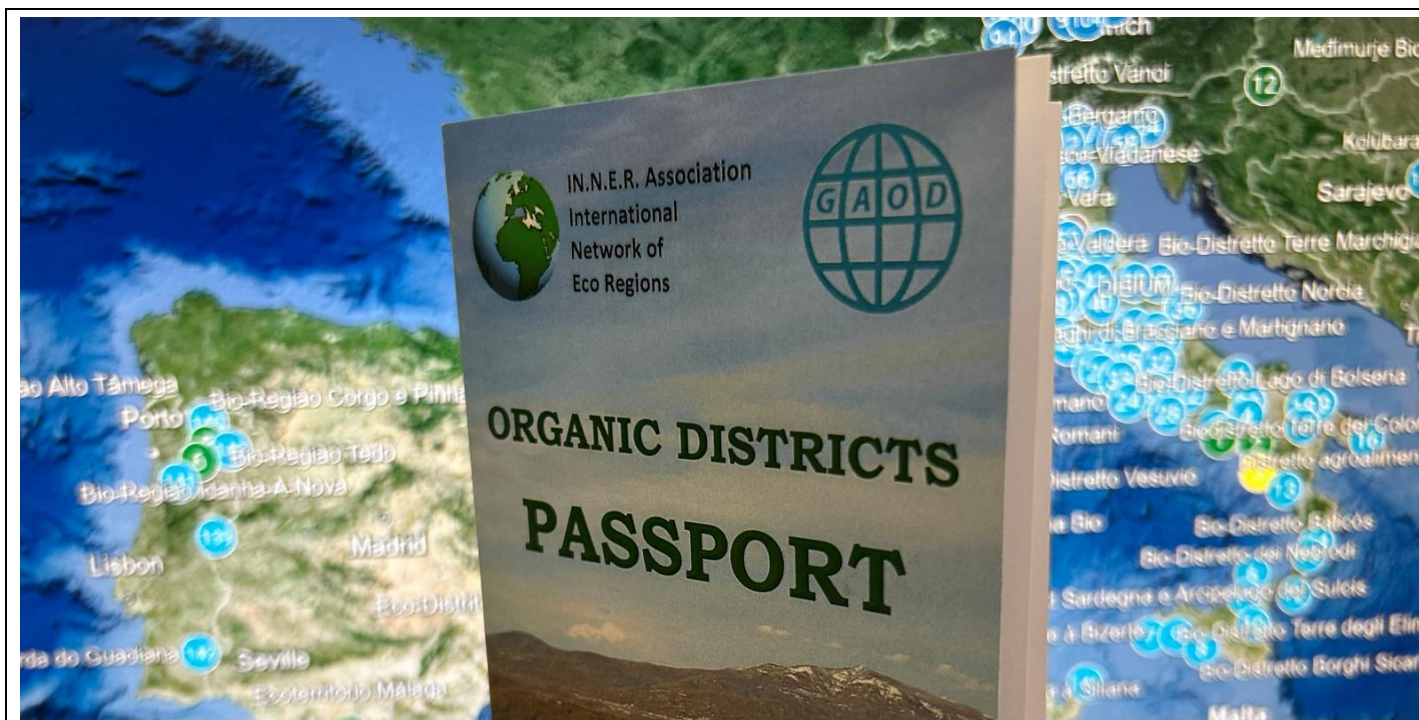
The enhancement of digital tools in the tourist supply and demand would have to be oriented towards a well balanced role, able to give benefit to all and not to few subjects.

The decision of the European Commission to support the rural areas through the promotion of eco-tourism in Bio-Districts (to be developed in all countries) is defined in two important documents:

- **European Commission Organic Agriculture Action Plan**
"Bio districts" have proven successful in integrating organic farming and other local activities to enhance tourist appeal also in areas that are off the mainstream tourist track.
- **A long-term Vision for the EU's Rural Areas.**



IN.N.E.R. has developed an Organic Districts Passport, where it will be possible to register all visits to the organic districts by going to the official Gran Tour Bio points, which will apply the certification stamp.



	Emilio Buonomo Italy Architect, Director of Cilento Bio-District, President of IN.N.E.R. IL B*RGH DEI MULINI
Title Valorisation of the of the “village of mills”, Sessa Cilento in Cilento Bio-District, through the inclusion in the Bio Grand Tour.	
Summary The project ‘Il Borgo dei mulini’ (village of mills), was funded by the Italian government and the European Union in the context of the NEXT GENERATION EU, the European Commission economic recovery package to support the EU member states to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular those that have been particularly hard hit. The objective of the project is the creation and development of a local cultural, agro-alimentary landscape and entrepreneurial circuit, through the functionalisation and enhancement of the valley of mills and other attractions in the Sessa Cilento municipal area for tourism and economic purposes and the use of municipal-owned land to recover ancient grains and stimulate production and the local economy. In this area, there is the highest concentration of watermills, which the project intends to enhance through: • their re-functionalisation in cultural, tourist and economic terms, • the re-qualification of the Valle dei Mulini nature trail, • the implementation of a cultural and local animation programme, • a programme of activities to train and stimulate entrepreneurship, aimed in particular at young people, • promotion at local and international level.	



The Cilento Bio-District Association within the project will be responsible in particular for local and international promotion, participation in trade fairs, and the production of informative material.

The overall objective is to interconnect the cultural, historical and environmental elements of the context to promote a chain of activities - tourism, training, entrepreneurial, cultural in the strict sense - for the social and economic regeneration of the area, attracting visitors and, above all, human capital and investment, realising multiplicative effects on the territory.



Aina Calafat Rogers

Spain

I come from several generations of farmers. I have a degree in Biology and Master degrees in Organic Farming and in International Policies and Cooperation. I worked as director of the Organic Control Authority of the Balearic Islands for nearly 20 years. I'm a part time organic farmer and currently working for SEAE- (Spanish Society for Organic Farming and Agroecology) as international project manager. On behalf of SEAE and the Spanish organic farmers I am part of IFOAM Organics Europe Farmer's Group of Interest, INOFO, IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo and INNER (the International Network of Organic Districts).

Title

Organic Districts and Proximity Tourism, complementary tools for resilience and adaptation to Climate Change.

Executive Summary

Organic Districts offer a response to many of the challenges we currently face due to both Climate Change and economic and social crises, based on the principles of inclusion and social cohesion and respect for the environment. The reduction of emissions from long-distance transportation, both of products and people, to mitigate the anthropogenic contribution to Climate Change and environmental pollution, is already urgent and imminent. This, in addition to implying an improvement in the quality of life thanks to communities' access to a healthy environment and food, also improves human relationships and the quality time available. The Organic Districts approach reduces the distance traveled by food products, the impact on resources, connecting countryside and city, countryside and coast, production and consumption, production and tourism. The reduction of distances traveled by people for environmental reasons without giving up leisure time, tourism and rest, understood as part of improving the quality of life and available time, can be addressed through proximity tourism models, community and grassroots.

To this end, it is proposed that the tourism model to which it is linked and its economic sustainability be considered in the development of Organic Districts. Likewise, consider where the limits are established so that tourism activity stimulates agricultural activity and does not displace it, and how we address it in the Organic Districts. On the other hand, the complementarity of Organic Districts with Proximity Tourism leads to questions of what we understand by proximity and what criteria said model must meet, as well as the establishment and definition of distances by each District based on its impact.



Raffaele BASILE

Italy



IN.N.E.R. – International Network of Eco Regions

Lawyer and honorary magistrate, with a master's degree in European Union Law and Economics.

Journalist specialized in responsible tourism and environment issues – Writer.

Head of the communication area of the International Network of Eco Regions.

Managing Director of “Bio-distretti” magazine.

Participation in many international projects in the field of ecology and innovation in training.

Nature Life coach, holistic operator on the move.

Title

Eco-Regions, a measure of wellbeing

Executive Summary

THE FIRST PRINCIPLES OF SOCIAL WELFARE OUTLINED IN THE SIXTIES

More than half a century ago, Robert F. Kennedy, at the time a U.S.a. senator and shortly before being assassinated, gave a speech at the University of Kansas in which he famously questioned the authority of the Gross Domestic Product or GDP, an exclusively economic indicator as a legitimate measure of national wellbeing.

“The GDP “counts air pollution and cigarette advertising, and ambulances to clear our highways of carnage, it counts the destruction of the redwood and the loss of our natural wonder in chaotic sprawl”, Kennedy told the University of Kansas.

“The GDP measures everything in short, except that which makes life worthwhile” he, concluded.

He had thus traced the path for a new approach to a more human economy, that is the so called Gross National Wellbeing Index.

EVOLUTION OF THAT APPROACH

It's worth thinking over on the distance we have traveled since that speech in Kansas. That Kansas speech - revolutionary for the time and the context in which it was made - has been often credited with kick-starting of international studies and policy contexts. For example, the European Commission's *Beyond GDP* programme and the OECD's global project on *Measuring the progress of societies*, with its Istanbul declaration, calling for 'high-quality facts-based information to form a shared view of societal wellbeing and its evolution over time.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF GROSS DOMESTIC WELL BEING INDEX IN THE ECO-REGIONS

For about twenty years all these concepts started to have a name: ecoregion, organic district, biodistrict and so on. Various names in the different nations where they arose, which have originated from the first organic district that arose in Italy in the Cilento region, whose name was precisely Biodistretto .

The wellness and gratification of Eco-region's citizens has not been considered only in terms of economic satisfaction. In the Eco-regions have been mainly followed well being criteria both for inhabitants and territory, in line with the mentioned *Gross Domestic Well-being (G.D.W.)* index. In the Eco-regions the well-being has been progressively framed using quality indicators and not just quantity indicators. The latter have been identified in education, health, environmental protection, sustainable production and tertiary sector activities, participation in political life, social relations.

MULTIFUNCTIONALITY

The activities of Eco-regions have often re-implemented in a responsible and multifunctional way of doing things, with respect for the environment, a creative imagination, a well-targeted organizational capacity. All this, maintaining the centrality of the territory and the host population. In addition to the agriculture and the transformation of products of the land, has also been important giving space to activities related to leisure, gastronomy, therapies for health and wellbeing.

TERRITORIAL IDENTITY

The cultural "identity" descending from the Eco-region lands started to become a kind of strong brand to spend on the market. The concept of territorial identity, began to redirect tourist and productive flows in a sustainable way to marginal rural areas, increasing their attractiveness. This identity also become a distinctive element for products of excellence produced or processed in the Eco-region's area

A WELL BALANCED DEVELOPMENT

The sustainability of the choices and actions of operators in the Eco-region is more and more trying to follow the three fundamental dimensions of "development": environment, economy, society. And eco-regions actors try to do that, mixing the various "ingredients" of the territory with the powerful amalgam of creativity, imagination and ethics.



Giuseppe Cilento

Italia

New Cilento Agr. Coop. in Cilento Bio-District

Title

Organic Regenerative Agriculture: the agriculture that joins together.

Executive Summary

The producers of the Organic District have at their disposal a complete pool of techniques and technologies, which they can easily apply on the farm, making themselves independent from the agropharmaceutical industry. Organic Regenerative Agriculture is a patrimony of people, skills, experiences, techniques and technologies, which through the production of healthy, quality and affordable food for all, is a real driver of social change.

We need new human relations in agriculture for a new society !

	Chin Huei Wen Taiwan Secretary General of the Association of Taiwanese Indigenous People's Development. I have created the platform for cooperative production and marketing for organic production of indigenous peoples in Taiwan, which called "Tribal E-Shop", since 2005. Based on the concept of Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) promoted by IFOAM," Tribal E-Shop" consists of local agricultural produce being developed as plantations for the mainstay of indigenous initiative economy with the sharing spirit of indigenous tribes and the spirit of cooperative production and marketing and fair trade. I am also a PhD student of Institute of Sociology, National Tsing-Hua University in Taiwan.
Title Alternative farming system and solidarity economy: a case study on PGS Project for the Tribal E-Shop" in Taiwan	
Executive Summary Since 1930s, modern agriculture does not simply change the globalized agri-food system but affects the lifestyles of indigenous people who currently live in Taiwan. Indigenous people's economic activity is separated from the originally traditional economic model and becomes the economic pattern mixed with semi-traditional tribal economy and integrated with modern capitalism. It therefore results in the large migration of the youth and aging population in indigenous tribes as well as the collapse and gradual declination of tribal society. Under the influence of capitalism and neoliberalism, indigenous farmers who have accepted modern agriculture, regard organic agriculture as the development core. It is generally regarded as the best strategy to improve indigenous people's economic situations. Nevertheless, indigenous farmers, who generally have family farms or are peasants, have to face many difficulties in entering organic agriculture, e.g. economic support in the transformation period, hinder of organic accreditation regulations, and marketing dilemma of small scale and little production. To assist indigenous farmers in solving the dilemma, Association of Taiwanese Indigenous Peoples' Development (ATIPD) established "Tribal E-Shop – Cooperative Production and Marketing Platform of Indigenous Tribal Industry" in 2005 and applied the idea of "Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS)" to develop the sharing spirit of indigenous tribes with the model of "farmers' association" and develop the solidarity economy of indigenous people in 2012. The cross-tribe and cross-ethnic group platform, under the premise of indigenous farmers facing the marketization of organic agriculture, applies cooperative production and marketing model to struggle for against capitalism. "Farmers' association" is based on farmer's organization for learn democratic decision-making, autonomous management, and consensus coherence as well as develop solidarity economy. The farmers regularly learn from each other in the monthly meeting, which becomes the mechanism for farmers exchanging knowledge and constructing sharing relationship. By participating in observation the operation of 5 farmers' associations, it is discovered in this study that different discussion and decision-making models appear under the cultural background of distinct ethnic groups. It therefore forms different internal operation and organization characteristics. Furthermore, indigenous farmers use PGS as the strategy for development characteristics, but they gradually lose the advantages under the fierce market competition of organic agriculture, not to mention the purpose of indigenous industrial revitalization and cultural revival. In this case, the workshop of indigenous food culture asset survey held by ATIPD in 2017 transformed the action research for the food culture of Atayal, Bunun,	

Rukai, Tsou, and Amis into “the third plate” in 2018, attempting to become an alternative marketing strategy integrating indigenous organic agriculture and local knowledge to solve the harsh dilemma.

The PGS model of Tribal E-Shop starts from agriculture transformation (organic agriculture) with cross-tribe and cross-ethnic group organization patterns and applies the cultural habits in indigenous society to break through the boundary between individual tribes. It allows the cooperative production and marketing model becoming local resistance strategy to capitalism and neoliberalism, coping with different ethnic groups and cultural background for detailed adjustment, and then establishing their own models and characteristics. The 5 farmers’ associations therefore achieve the cross-region integration and become the organizational basis of pan-indigenous solidarity economy. Furthermore, the level of indigenous living culture should be integrated into the production and marketing mechanism of modern organic agriculture to tightly connect indigenous alternative agricultural systems, local diet culture revival, and food sovereignty so as to develop the agronomy movement with indigenous traditional knowledge and characteristics.

Track 3: Organic Districts' Social Impacts

Community Empowerment, Social Agriculture, Urban-Rural Synergy, Youth Engagement, and Gender Equity

	Jannifer Chang South Korea IFOAM Asia Executive Director, since 2012. She is also the Executive Director of the Asian Local Governments Organic Agriculture (ALGOA) and the founder of the Women in Organic Agriculture in Asia (WOAA) launched in November 2021. Formerly, she has also served as Vice-President of IFOAM-Organics International from 2017 to 2021. She has lived and worked in many countries including the US, Europe, and Asia for over 25 years and has worked at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland before returning to her home country to work for IFOAM-Organics Asia.
Title Arms to Farms: Building Peace through Organic Farming	
Summary Food security is a necessary requirement to achieving peace, particularly in countries where agriculture and food production are key to economic and social development. A stable, peaceful environment is the foundation of lasting food security and sustainable livelihoods. For peace-building, the revitalization of the agricultural sector must be supported to increase food production and to generate income opportunities for rural communities, including ex-combatants, women, and young people. Good and stable governance can contribute to the building of sustainable food systems from the local to national to the global level. Organic agriculture and sustainable food systems can be an effective driver for peace-building activities in conflict and violence-prone areas. It has proven to be effective in increasing and stabilizing yields, particularly in marginal lands. It also provides farmers with a premium return on investment as farmers do not have to invest heavily in chemical fertilizers and pesticides. By reducing the cost of inputs, organic agriculture can help to battle poverty. Organic agriculture also builds on local management skills and resources, enabling local communities to be food self-sufficient and combat poverty. It also provides diversified, healthy, and nutritious food for farming families and communities. It is a viable option for family farms and smallholders, mostly affected by armed conflict, by supporting food sovereignty, and therefore food security. Since the 1970s, the Municipality of Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte, Philippines, has been the center of decades-long conflict between local insurgencies and the military with the poverty rate at an all-record high of 90%. In 2010, a new local government leadership stepped in and started to address the root causes of the conflict, which were found to be poverty, food insecurity and inequalities between population groups. The project 'From Arms to Farms: Walking through the Paths of Peace', proved very successful in addressing these issues. It consists of an agricultural training program that helps former combatants to reintegrate into society while at the same time addressing the food security problem. These combatants agreed to lay down their arms in exchange for farm materials and a decade later, they have become the most exemplary organic farmer leaders in the municipality. The poverty rate has decreased to 20% levels.	

The agricultural program covered the areas of demobilization and food security through so-called Peace Path Workshops that sought to restore trust within the different groups of the community, for a durable ending to the conflict to be achieved over time. These workshops were led by the different organizations involved with the project and religious leaders and targeted as many parts of society as possible.

For its efforts, the Municipality of Kauswagan was awarded with the UCLG Peace Prize in October 2016 and an Honorable Mention of the Future Policy Award in 2018.



Ryan Anthony Monang Bestre

Philippines

Ryan is the Liaison Officer of Young Organics Global Network. He also supports activities of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)-Asia. Currently, he works for Asian Development Bank (ADB) as a Climate Change Officer where he manages ADB's Climate Investment Funds pipeline development. Previously, Ryan was involved in the ecological agriculture, diet for climate, and climate justice campaigns of Greenpeace.

Title

Growing Together: Youth Engagement in Organic Food Systems

Summary

In the Philippines, the average age of a farmer is between 57 and 59 years old. Unfortunately, many young Filipinos do not view a career in agriculture as profitable, which contributes to the aging farming population. This is true in a lot of countries in the world. The future of agriculture depends on finding ways to engage younger generations towards sustainable farming practices. The presentation will look at youth engagement in the Philippine context as well as the importance of strengthening global exchange and cooperation for organic food systems. It will highlight initiatives of the #IamHampasLupa Ecological Agriculture Movement and the food-related campaigns of Greenpeace, as well as the youth activities of IFOAM-Asia and YOGN



Bernadette San Juan

Philippines

Director of the National Organic Agriculture Program, Philippines.

Bernadette F. San Juan serves as the National Program Director for the Department of Agriculture's National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP). With a rich background in agricultural program development and management, she is a staunch advocate for organic agriculture, driving the program's success and expansion.

Educational Qualifications:

San Juan's educational and professional journey is a testament to her dedication and impact in the fields of geography, education, and public service. Her academic background, with a Bachelor's degree from the University of the Philippines and a Master's in Education from the University of Asia and the Pacific, provided a strong foundation for her subsequent achievements. In 2023, she received the Distinguished Alumni Award in Public Service and Good Governance highlighting her commitment to excellence and ethical leadership.

Professional Achievements:

	Director San Juan has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills, particularly in her role as NOAP's Director, where she played a pivotal role in the agricultural recovery efforts following Typhoon Haiyan. Her recognition with the Presidential GAWAD Career Executive Service Award underscores her significant contributions to the nation's welfare. Moreover, her appointment as an Ambassador for Women in Organic Agriculture Asia reflects her influence and advocacy for sustainable practices and gender equality in the agricultural sector. San Juan's career is a beacon of inspiration, showcasing how individual dedication can lead to substantial positive change in society.
Title Development of Participatory Guarantee Systems in the Philippines.	

	Miyoshi Satoko Japan IFOAM World Board Member Miyoshi has been involved with IFOAM since she was a student in University of California Santa Cruz major in Community Studies. She worked for a certification body for organic foods, also worked for an organic standard setter (for Organic Textile). She was actively engaged in the organic movement, which resulted to the establishment of the Organic Agriculture Promotion Law in Japan in 2006. In 2010 She organized URGENCI (CSA) international conference in Kobe. She has been supporting ALGOA from the beginning. Together with Kisarazu city, 2016 ALGOA forum was held in Kisarazu, where she currently lives. Currently she serve as IFOAM WB members, and promoting organic agriculture and lifestyle at national and local level.
Title Building a national movement of Organic Villages, local governments promoting organic farming and organic school meal.	
Summary Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan(MAFF) had started Organic Village scheme from 2022. MAFF set KPI to achieve 100 organic villages in Japan by 2025 however, at 2024 May it already became 124 organic villages in Japan. Many organic villages are promoting organic school meal to enhance organic farming in local area.	

	Giacomo Packer Italy Giacomo Packer graduated in International Horticultural Science and is currently a PhD student at the University of Bologna. His research centers on alternative food systems, short supply chains, and agroecological production. Giacomo's main focus is the social impact of bio-districts on rural communities, particularly exploring aspects such as social capital and cooperation, stakeholder involvement, and Community-Supported Agriculture. He employs both qualitative and quantitative methodologies in his work.
--	---

Title The Social impact of Bio-districts	
Summary Bio-districts, involve a diverse range of different stakeholders, from supply chain actors to governance bodies and supporting entities such as universities, research institutes and NGOs. To assess the social impact of bio-districts, a comprehensive framework of indicators has been developed, grounded in both practical engagement and academic literature. The assessment process for the social impact in bio-districts is rooted in semi-structured interviews. This methodology allows for flexibility in discussions, enabling the capture of perspectives from various stakeholders. These stakeholders include farmers, suppliers, local government officials, academic researchers, and community organizations, all of whom contribute to the bio-district's ecosystem. Through these interviews, valuable qualitative data is gathered, providing insights into the social dimensions of sustainability within the district. The development of indicators for social sustainability in bio-districts draws from existing literature combined with the information that was gathered during the interviews. Academic studies provide a theoretical basis for identifying key areas of social impact, ensuring that the indicators are both comprehensive and applicable to diverse contexts. This literature review highlights critical areas of social sustainability, such as community well-being, transparency, social inclusion, and resilience. These topics form some crucial areas of the general framework used to evaluate the social impact of bio-districts. By integrating these indicators into a structured framework, stakeholders can systematically assess and enhance the social impact of bio-districts. This framework not only aids in monitoring and evaluation but also guides the continuous improvement of bio-district initiatives, ensuring that they contribute positively to social sustainability.	

	Te-Chun Chen Taiwan TeChun Chen has a diverse background in organic agriculture, agroecology, and horticulture, with educational experiences in Taiwan, Sweden, Germany, and Austria. He currently works at IFOAM – Organics International for the Policy and Guarantee Department. TeChun is also coordinating the upcoming IFOAM's Organic World Congress (OWC) in December in Taiwan. OWC is an event held every three years that provides the global organic community a platform to exchange insights, share the latest knowledge, and learn from each other. Moreover, TeChun is passionate about the organic lifestyle and local food systems. He recently conducted research on actor participation and trust in the Cilento Bio-District, which is one of the outstanding and symbolic territorial development models, highlighting his commitment to enhancing the local organic food supply and fostering sustainable agricultural practices.
	Title Actor Participation and Trust in Cilento Bio-District Summary The contemporary global food system faces significant challenges such as food insecurity, unsustainable production, biodiversity loss, and climate change. Sustainable food systems that emphasise organic and agroecological farming, local food production, and socio-economic equity are gaining importance. Bio-

Districts have emerged as innovative models that promote these sustainable practices and foster community engagement.

This thesis research examines the Cilento Bio-District in Italy, focusing on actor participation within its alternative food networks. By employing structured interviews and thematic analysis, the study investigates the motivations, cooperation among various stakeholders, including farmers, consumers, local businesses, civil society organizations, and public sector representatives. The research further looked into the factors that build trust among actors in Cilento Bio-District. Multi-actor participatory governance in Bio-Districts integrates diverse stakeholders into decision-making processes, ensuring inclusivity and reflecting community needs and values with the bottom-up approaches. Social interactions within Cilento Bio-District are crucial for building trust in the system and among actors. This trust is strengthened by the shared vision of sustainably managing local natural resources and promoting the territory. Such engagement is essential for the sustainability and effectiveness of local food systems, fostering community resilience and multifunctionality.

By exploring the current state of cooperation among actors and gathering individual experiences and perspectives within the system, the study aims to identify areas for improvement in the collaborative framework. This research contributes to the ongoing discourse on sustainable and equitable food systems, advocating for a transition towards more resilient and community-oriented agricultural practices.

POSTERS

1. **Salvatore BASILE, Emilio BUONOMO**, “Sessa Cilento, the village of Mills” in Cilento Bio-District in Italy
2. **Ivana SIMIĆ, Pavle ĐORĐEVIĆ, Juan Pablo SCIURANO, Snežana OLJAČA***, Introduction of the first biodistrict in a pilot region in Serbia
3. **Ignazio CIRRONIS & Chiara MEDDA**, BioDistrict South Sardinia and Sulcis Archipelago in Italy
4. **Sundeeep Srinivas Kamath**, the Ancient Silk Road
5. **Peter TOTH, Monika TOTHOVA**, How to support biodiversity

LOCALISATION



ITALY
CAMPANIA REGION
SALERNO PROVINCE

IL B*RG DEI MULINI



Sessa Cilento
Municipality

WITHIN THE CILENTO,
VALLO DI DIANO AND
ALBURNI NATIONAL
PARK AND CILENTO
BIO-DISTRICT



IL B*RG
DEI MULINI

PROJECT
"Il Borgo dei mulini"
(The Village of Mills)



VALORISATION OF THE VALLEY OF MILLS
AND THE CULTURAL AND AGRI-FOOD HERITAGE OF THE RURAL TRADITION

DISSEMINATION AND TRAINING CENTRE
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, ARTS AND LEGALITY

In this area, there is the highest concentration of watermills, which the project intends to enhance through:

- their re-functionalisation in cultural, tourist and economic terms,
- the re-qualification of the Valle dei Mulini nature trail,
- the implementation of a cultural and local animation programme,
- a programme of activities to train and stimulate entrepreneurship, aimed in particular at young people,
- promotion at local and international level.



INTRODUCTION OF THE FIRST BIODISTRICT IN A PILOT REGION IN SERBIA

Ivana SIMIĆ², Pavle ĐORĐEVIĆ², Juan Pablo SCIURANO¹, Snežana OLJAČA^{3*}

¹International Network of Eco Regions (INNER), Via Serre 39 - 84052 Ceraso (SA), Italia

²National Association "Serbia Organica" Bate Živojinovića 19, 11.000 Belgrade, Serbia

³University of Belgrade, Faculty of Agriculture, Nemanjina 6, 11080 Belgrade, Serbia

*Corresponding author: soljaca@agrif.bg.ac.rs



Bio/organic/eco-districts, also known as bioregions, are areas where farmers, citizens, authorities, and other stakeholders collaborate to manage local resources sustainably. These regions adhere to the principles of organic farming and best agroecological practices. This approach addresses economic development trends that lead to rural depopulation and increased urbanization. By promoting sustainable resource management, biodistricts foster the economic and socio-cultural development of their communities, enhancing living conditions and incomes.

Serbia is deeply rooted in agricultural tradition, with over 5 million hectares of agricultural land and favorable climate conditions. This environment supports a diverse array of fruit and vegetable varieties, many of which are indigenous, as well as unique animal breeds. The country's agricultural heritage is a crucial part of its cultural identity, making the conservation of these traditions essential.

A key aspect of Serbia's agricultural policy is the prohibition of GMO food production. This ban, combined with a growing trend towards organic farming over the past decade, holds significant potential for preserving natural resources, advancing sustainable agriculture and providing great market value of agricultural products.

In 2010, the Environmental Protection Agency of the Republic of Serbia identified agricultural areas of high natural value, covering over 20% of the country's agricultural land. This identification, based on the European Environment Agency (EEA) approach, highlights the rich natural resources and traditional agricultural landscapes of these areas. Recognizing these high-value agricultural lands underscores the importance of integrating sustainable practices into Serbia's agricultural sector.

The concept of biodistricts, which leads to the production of more valuable agricultural products, aligns well with Serbia's traditional practices. Bioregions create a virtuous cycle of sustainable agricultural production and processing, resulting in high-quality products appreciated both locally and in the market. This model is particularly compatible with Serbia's agricultural context, where traditional methods and modern sustainable practices can coexist and thrive.

One of the key initiatives in Serbia is the establishment of the Kolubara Biodistrict in the western part of the country as the first biodistrict in the Balkans. This pioneering effort makes Serbia the first country in Southeast Europe to implement such a model. The creation of the Kolubara Biodistrict involved a comprehensive assessment of territorial conditions, the development of partnerships within the target area, and the initiation of various activities to promote sustainable development, and that acts on it to generate changes, aimed at the formation at the national level of a Biodistrict system.

The approach methodology was focused on Action Research, which contemplates an active training process that includes the investigation of the operating reality and that acts on it to generate changes, aimed at the formation at the national level of a Biodistrict system.

The program included specific dissemination and training actions, research and constant feedback through a fluid communication channel between actors and the national team.

The activities in the Kolubara Biodistrict cover several focus areas: integrated management, organic farming, agroecology, natural resource management, tourism, gastronomy, energy production, food and nutrition security, quality and health, communication, and youth engagement. These initiatives aim to foster holistic development, leveraging Serbia's agricultural strengths to boost the economy, enhance tourism, and promote sustainable practices.

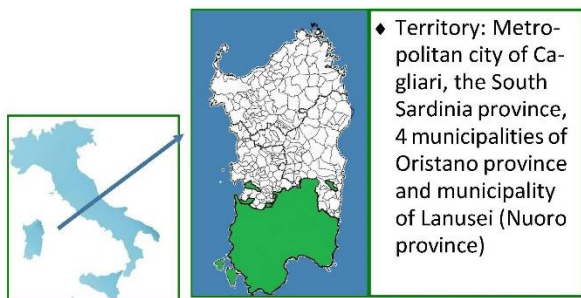
By integrating these diverse activities, the Kolubara Biodistrict aims to serve as a model for future development in Serbia's agriculture, tourism, and economic sectors. This initiative demonstrates the potential of bioregions to drive sustainable growth, preserve cultural heritage, and improve the quality of life for rural communities, ensuring a resilient and prosperous future for Serbia.



BioDistrict South Sardinia and Sulcis Archipelago - ITALY

"BioDistretto Sud Sardegna e Arcipelago del Sulcis"

Area concerned



The food chains

- fruit and vegetables
- sheep's milk/cheese
- cereals/pasta/bread
- grapes and wine
- olive oil



Members

- ◆ 53 organic farms including the Producers Organization "S'Atra Sardigna"
- ◆ Agricultural organizations (Copagri, CIA, Confagricoltura)
- ◆ Cooperative organizations (legacoop, confcooperative, AIGC)
- ◆ Environmental and consumers associations (Legambiente and Slow Food)
- ◆ Tourism Operators and Cultural Operators

Objects



- ◆ Develop organic production and consumption from the local productive chains of fruit and vegetables, sheep cheese and sheep milk, cereals-bread-pasta, oil, wine
- ◆ Educating in natural nutrition and «Wellness»
- ◆ Promote all sustainable economic processes of the territory and the synergy between them; in particular:
 - Renewable Energy (Energy Community, Photovoltaics on agricultural roofs and small wind farm)
 - Eco-sustainable tourism in connection with the organic food and wine offer of the territory (BioFestival, Rete Bio direct sale and farmhouses,)
 - Green building (eco-friendly materials and techniques, raw earth, renovation of the housing stock, green building regulations and energy saving)
- ◆ Sardinian culture and Tabarchina culture (cultural area coming from the island of Tabarca (Tunisia))



Projects :

envisaged funded
(270,000 €)
and
awaiting funding
(400,000 €)

Training activities:

- to strengthen production chains
- Technical assistance to organic farms
- Ecological footprint study of Sardinian organic farms
- BioFestival
- BioHoreca
- Network of direct sales organic farms and farmhouses
- BioDistricts International Conference (2024 november)
- Sardinian Organic Festival (Canada, USA, Germany, Switzerland, Italy)
- Participation in international trade fairs (Natexpo, Millesime Bio- France. Expolive - Spain)

4 - Sundeep Srinivas Kamath, the Ancient Silk Road



How to support biodiversity

Peter TÓTH¹, Monika Tóthová²

¹International Network of Eco-Regions (IN.N.E.R), Salerno, Vráble, Italy, Slovakia

²Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, A. Hlinko 2, 94976 Nitra, Slovakia
Email: phytomyza@gmail.com

The level of biodiversity, whether genetic, species or ecosystem, can influence pest regulation. Biodiversity increases the value of the environment and the performance of ecosystems.

Knowledge and research should play a key role in all ecosystem activities. Knowledge is power and applied knowledge is wisdom.



The value of biodiversity

The value of biodiversity in agriculture is difficult to quantify. It is difficult to assess the positive impact of ecological compensation areas and the beneficial organisms they contain. The success or positive impact of flowering strips/natural vegetation or other ecological compensation areas is not always what you see.

Ecosystem services

The ecosystem services of the area are the benefits that people receive from ecosystems - and they have an impact on people's living standards. Biodiversity in agroecosystems is generally reduced by human management.

Problem

The main problem of agroecosystems, including organic ones, is the fragmentation of natural vegetation within and around the agroecosystem. One solution may be to support ecological compensation areas by deliberately sowing selected mixtures of flowering plants and supporting and expanding natural vegetation.

Necessity

Ecological compensation areas should cover at least 5-10% of the agroecosystem area.

In conclusion

Ecological use of the landscape, i.e., purposeful and rational management, helps to increase biodiversity.



Structurally complex landscape
= suitable habitats for natural enemies

Enhanced biological control in complex landscape



2nd Organic Districts World Congress

**July 29 – AUGUST 2, 2024,
Idanha a Nova, Portugal**

One Health. One Planet

VVT

phytomyza@gmail.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

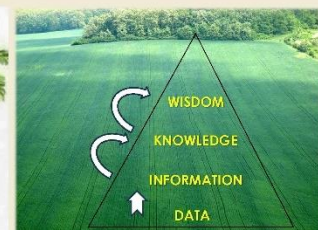
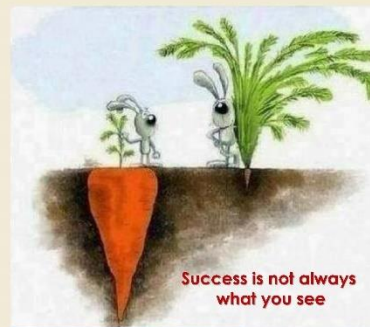
The Study was supported by Scientific Grant Agency of the Ministry of Education of Slovak Republic VEGA 1/0467/22



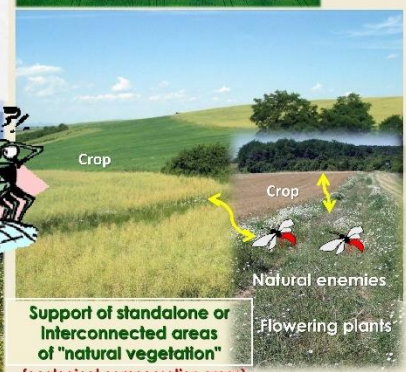
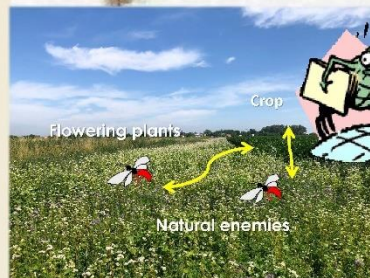
International
Network of
Eco
Regions



SUA
Slovak University
of Agriculture
in Nitra



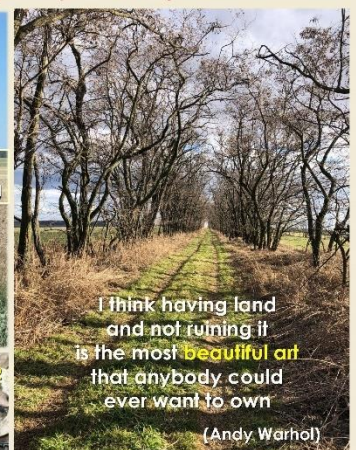
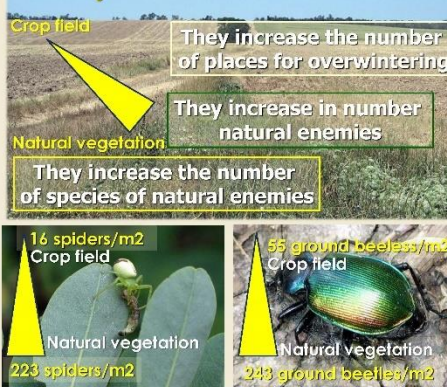
**Nature
knows
the best**



Support of standalone or interconnected areas of "natural vegetation" (ecological compensation areas)

Positive effect of flowering strips / natural vegetation

Ecosystem services



Agroecosystem health = Crop health
= planet health

