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Montespertoli hills



Montespertoli SEPLS

- Ancient Grain Project aims to sponsor farming of autochthonous varieties of wheat and their transformation
- The project's aims for the cultivation to become the livelihood of the people involved
- It sponsors biodiversity in wheat and other cultivated crops as well as in natural flora and fauna
- The project is working as part of a bigger movement, included in local government policies, but success is not possible without the enthusiasm and support of the local population as well as the right policies.

Ancient grains

Local varieties of Durum wheat (*Triticum Turgidum*)
and Common wheat (*Triticum Aestivum*)

Cultivation and transformation













GRANI ANTICHI
DI



MONTESPERTOLI
1000 g

Ancient grains

Social aggregation!



Contributions to the Aichi Biodiversity Target

1

Indicator 1: number of people aware in biodiverse grains in Montespertoli area.
Indicator 2: Hectares revitalized through the local association activity

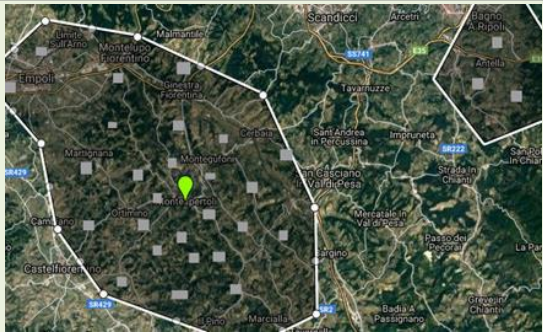
BEFORE (2013)

There was little cultivation of ancient grains (not recorded as not in national registry) and little knowledge that there were different varieties of wheat, just an idea in Montespertoli.



AFTER (2018)

500 hectares (about 50 farmers), mostly abandoned land were converted to organic farming of wheat, einkorn and spelt. Local schools and event serve local ancient grains and now more than 10.000 people know them and use them regularly.



Contributions to the Aichi Biodiversity Target

1

Indicator 1: number of projects in biodiverse grains in Italy linked to our project.
Indicator 2: direct farmers involved in different communes.

BEFORE (2013)

AFTER (2018)

3 farmers in one project, one commune, Montespertoli.

Almost 100 farmers in 10 different projects and 14 communes in Italy.



Contributions to the Aichi Biodiversity Target

2

Indicator 1: number of people aware in biodiverse grains in Montespertoli area.
Indicator 2: Hectares revitalized through the local association activity

BEFORE (2013)

AFTER (2018)

Montespertoli started to sponsor local wheat cultivation.
No particular policy.
10 hectares cultivated

Montespertoli and Montelupo councils have voted a resolution to sponsor biodiverse wheat respecting our policies (no insecticides fertilizers and pesticides). Local school canteens are obliged to use our biodiverse wheat products (pasta and bread). Nine councils are in discussion with the association. 500 Hectares cultivated.

10

500

Contributions to the Aichi Biodiversity Target

4

Indicator 1: Government incentives to cultivating biodiverse wheat
Indicator 2: City councils policies favoring organic agriculture of biodiverse wheat

BEFORE (2013)

AFTER (2018)

There was no fund or incentive for cultivating biodiverse wheat, but there were national subsidies for organic agriculture for modern varieties.

Two local councils created policies for cultivating biodiverse varieties of wheat. One council decided on an annual grant and the regional government will subsidize investment on the ancient grain cultivation up to half a million euro.



Contributions to the Aichi Biodiversity Target

2

Indicator 1: Number of varieties in national system reporting and registry

BEFORE (2016)

AFTER (2018)

One of the varieties in national reporting system.

3 varieties accounted, 2 added, other 6 in in process.



Message to the CBD for post-2020

- Schools need to integrate biodiversity values.
- Policies should help the biodiversity projects in their weak points, financially and in the case of Italy controlling the number of invasive species, including the animal population.
- Sustainable farming and biodiversity can only succeed if there is a cooperation among all stakeholders. Governments and local authorities can help substantially by sponsoring investments and helping to educate the people. Our experience proves that schools are essential for educating the population. Children can educate their parents. The ancient grain project was successful initially because of the enthusiasm of a group of volunteers, then because the right price was given to farmers, then because of local policies who helped with the sale and marketing of products. Finally, financial help has arrived from the government for new investments. The project still needs to be aided by appropriate policies, for example control of wild boars population. And last but not least, incentives and policies are useless if there is no economical viability, in our case, the policies and incentives, associated with the school buying the products is responsible for the success of the project.

Suggestions to IPSI for post-2020

- Keep publishing and spreading good practices.