



“Regional Seminar on social farming and forestry ”

***23 June 2016,
Walloon network for rural
development, - Belgium***

Social Farming National Forum

presents itself



Forum Nazionale Agricoltura Sociale



A Community of Practise A place of discussion and confrontation

A place to exchange ideas, knowledge and experiences

- The *Forum Nazionale Agricoltura Sociale* is a national network built in 2011 to promote and facilitate knowledge and experience sharing between the very different actors involved in the Social farming processes (framers, associations, families, disadvantage people, universities, local authorities, educational facilities, etc.)
- The Forum promotes the integration of the different cultures: social, agricultural, health, training and working.
- The Forum since its foundation started a dialogue with both the Italian Members of National Parliament and Regions, giving support and contribution to promote and support the legislative process of the National Law On Social Farming (Law num 141/2015)

What we believe is ...

“SF aims to reunify needs, identities, safeguards and instances of freedom for all citizens, regardless of their abilities.

In this the value of work not only as personal income, but also as a fundamental element of an inclusive society more just, cohesive and sustainable ...”

from the Card of Principles of National Forum of Social Farming

FNAS has adopted a “Card of principles” signed by all members which sets the values and principle inspiring the Forum activities

The SF Card is the founding document of the Forum and it is composed by the following key points:

- Multifunctional Agriculture
- Participating Welfare
- Health and wellbeing
- Recognition and protection of common goods
- Production of relational goods
- Agriculture and legality
- A model of social cohesion
- Agriculture and environment
- Training and education
- Development of networks and communities
- Protection of the person and of the work

Our numbers: 500 associated

- Social Farming National Forum has 500 organisation from all Italian regions.
- Our associated are: Farms, Cooperatives of Type A and B, Associations, CSOs, NGOs, Universities, educators, social workers, students, psychologists ecc
- Social Farming National Forum is a national network organized with Regional Forum. Currently are active the following Regional Forum: Calabria, Campania, Emilia Romagna, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Lazio, Liguria, Lombardia, Marche, Puglia, Sicilia, Umbria, Veneto.

Social farming in Italy: Milestones

1978: law n.180 known as “Basaglia Law” that has declared concluded the experience of madhouses.

1978: a social farming experience started near Rome, Agricoltura Capodarco Social Cooperative.

About the more general context in which social farming is getting attention. Sf In Italy a bottom up phenomenon

- The unusual duration of the economic crisis that has an uneven social impact
- Social inequalities are growing and are affecting more some specific population groups
- Social protection systems are under pressure
- The wider climatic and environmental issue, that is reducing quality and quantity of natural resources (fundamental for agricultural activities)
- Profound crisis of the traditional political and representation system

Recent development of SF in Italy

- practices pre-existed to the Social Farming (SF) expression
- started, grown and spreaded at local level, in various regions
- The complexity of the issue has made them “invisible” to the wider society
- the expression “social agriculture” began to be used since the early 2000’s
- in this term very different initiatives and activities are included some basic information are available on the general situation
- a rapid growth of attention at societal level is under way
- in August 2015 a national law was approved
- being in Italy both agriculture and social policy managed by the Regional authorities, 12 Regions, out of 20, have a regional legislation concerning SF

Common aspects of SF initiatives in Italy

- Adoption of organic methods of production
- Highly diversified and flexible
- Choice of labour intensive cultivations
- Cropping pattern with high value added
- To be “open” enterprises
- Highly multifunctional
- Disabled as most common users
- Indirect role of religion organization
- Preference for the short supply chains

Agricoltura Capodarco Social Cooperative – Grottaferrata (Rome)



A new concept of “social agro-tourism”

- “Agricoltura Capodarco Società Cooperativa Sociale” is an organic multifunctional farm on the outskirts of Rome
- Capodarco was born as a B Type social cooperative with the aim to include disadvantaged people in the labour market but, at the same time, it supplies many social services.
- The farm has progressively reinforced links within the local area, answering several needs and requests expressed by local health and social services or directly by families. Agriculture activity has also been developed including conversion to organic and the certification of products.
- Now, it is a multifunctional farm that includes disabled and socially excluded people as employees, trainers or volunteers engaged in occupational therapeutic activities.

Main target group and Purpose

- The farm focuses on mentally and physical disabled people, psychiatric patients, former drug-addicts and former prisoners, people affected by depression, immigrants and political refugees, asylum seekers
- The aim of the activity is to promote the social inclusion of disadvantaged people, and to improve the quality of life of the local community.
- The cooperative involves people with physical or learning difficulties as workers and/or in occupational rehabilitative activities. Training activities are carried out in cooperation with local administrations and are partially funded through ESF



Highly diversification
Is a key point of strength

The farms production is highly diversified including: honey from 200 beehives, daily production of over 1,000 eggs, olive oil from 13 hectares of olive trees and quality branded wine from the 9 hectare vineyard.

- marketing and distribution of organic products;
- restaurants, catering and organization of events;
- management and collaboration services of social inclusion turned to the local area.

Distribution of Organic and GAS: The cooperative sells its own products direct, plus a wide spectrum of other organic labelled food products, in their farm shop.

All the distribution of organic products is managed by Biosolidale Distribution Srl, which in fact provides: School canteens, shops, SGP (Solidarity Groups of purchase).

Organic Social Wine defined as Wine with Heart

... also at long distance.

Pages from a German catalogue of imported organic wines



Agricoltura Capodarco and its network are the locus of co-innovation processes that work across several sectors and domains of knowledge.

We can identify several innovations relating to business management that can be synthesized in adopting the classical typology:

Product innovation: for instance the reintroduction of native seeds and plants; the introduction of various processed agricultural products; the provision of several innovative social and health services in partnership with local authorities.

Process innovation: such as the implementation of organic farming techniques; the introduction of processing plants for agricultural production; the experimentation of significant changes in the delivery of social and health services.

Marketing innovation: such as the introduction of Capodarco brand, the adoption of innovative product promotion including an impressive symbolic dimension.

Social Farm and “After US”

- It is a pioneer in the implementation of new services in particular the Farms answer to the dramatic problems of parents with disabilities “what is going to happen to our children after our death?”
- In the Farm there are two house Family for mental disable people that have lost their parents.
- Casa Anna Maria and House Milly e Memmo face the drama of parents named “after us”



Agricoltura capodarco and the surrounding forestry

- Capodarco is located in the middle of the Regional Park of Castelli Romani.
- In cooperation with the City of Rocca di Papa Capodarco is running a project aimed to work the underbrush of a part of the forestry.
- Are involved people with mental disabilities and in alternative penalty.
- The result of the underbrush is used for the wood chip system in order to produce energy for the farm.

Shelter laboratories supported by local social service for people with mental disabilities and psychiatric disorder

“VIVA IO”



Shelter laboratories supported by local social service for people with mental disabilities and psychiatric disorder

“VIVA IO”

- It is a service started since 2008 in collaboration with the Mental Health Department of the Municipality of Frascati and included within the local services policies
- It is a shelter laboratory where people with mental and psychological disabilities are principally engaged in floriculture activities in the greenhouse, in synergy to the agricultural context and the all farms.



perfectly integrated in the daily agricultural and commercial activities of the cooperative itself

- The project creates an experimental process with a strong social, therapeutic and rehabilitation significance which facilitates the increased autonomy sphere of subjects, including through the "training" and working in a specific field perfectly integrated in the daily agricultural and commercial activities of the cooperative itself.
- They do offer also a external service for private garden in addition to offer complete the offer of our Restaurant with decoration for marriage and special celebrations of event



Local and National Network key point for the success of SF

- Local and national Networks
- The diversification of products and services
- The cooperation with local services
- The integration of different funds: support from local public services; ESF, Rural Development Program; European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development;
- Italian Civil services: The Italian Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Labor has signed a Memorandum of Understanding in order to guaranteed 1000 young adults in social farming activities
- The support from private Foundation dealing with the social inclusion.

“Fuori di Zucca” “out of mind” Social Farm
Aversa (Naples) ...from Metal Hospital to social farm



Promoting SF and a culture of legality

- “Fuori di Zucca” is a name that says a lot about the farm. “Fuori di zucca” It is located on the land of the old mental hospital of Aversa
- The cooperative, adopting the multifunctional criteria of the agriculture and of the health’s budget, today realizes a lot of activities, in particular the working integration of people affected by different forms of mental disabilities, minor at risk and convict.
- The Farm has a High quality Restaurant and is engaged in the contrast of organized crime Camorra

Health Budget one of the main tool supporting social farming

- The legislation of Campania region in healthcare and social systems has supported the “Fuori di zucca” Farm development by allowing them to manage health, social and educational services and other activities (agricultural, industrial, commercial and service) aimed at helping vulnerable persons, thanks to special agreements with the local authorities that define personalized care programs with specific budgets.
- These agreements identify individual plans and objectives based on the evaluation of personal needs, and the social and health services needed to reach them.

Fuori di zucca social Farm and NCO (*Nuova Cooperazione Organizzata* – New Organized Cooperation) anti-Mafia network in the Land of Fires, working with prisoners and minor at risk.

- The NCO (*Nuova Cooperazione Organizzata* – New Organized Cooperation) is a consortium, founded in 2012, involving five so-called ‘social cooperatives’ It ironically takes the acronym of the *Nuova Camorra Organizzata* (New Organized Camorra known as NCO), a powerful mafia organization
- The use of land confiscated from criminal organizations allows cooperatives to carry important symbolic value in the fight against Mafia culture, because the assets are a symbol of Mafia power
- The vision of the Consortium contends that it is necessary to organize people and to build networks for joining forces in order to fight against the Mafia while also struggling with the prejudices against disadvantaged people.

The Basaglian Law reconfiguration of psychiatry as a mean for the well-being of the entire society is the paradigm that frames the cooperatives work.

- The cooperatives put people and community, rather than profit, at the center of their missions, adopting an integrated and innovative approach in their narratives and daily practices.
- The cooperatives started to collaborate with public health and social services to provide a different kind of health, social and educational services;
- Over the years, towards the end of the decade, the NCO began to link agricultural practices and care services and to implement different social farming activities, including elements of healthcare, social rehabilitation, education or employment opportunities for various vulnerable groups.

To invest in agriculture in order to achieve their own autonomous economic sustainability with the aim to reduce their dependence on public funds

- agriculture combines the potential of agricultural activities to involve and integrate “problematic people” with the objective to promote community wellbeing, thereby mobilizing the multifunctionality of agriculture
- Moreover, NCO cooperatives decided to invest in agriculture in order to achieve their own autonomous economic sustainability with the aim to reduce their dependence on public funds for health and social services, which are too often delayed or discontinued.
- In the Land of Fires, marked by unemployment and by irregular and exploited work, especially in the agricultural sector, the cooperatives promote fair and horizontal work relations, even with marginalized people.

The legislative definition (n. 141/2015)

Activities run by agricultural entrepreneurs or social cooperatives aiming to the achievement of:

- A. Labor insertion of disadvantaged people (see EC Reg.800/2008)
- B. Services provided to the local community using material and immaterial agricultural resources to foster social inclusion
- C. Therapeutic and health services that help traditional medical therapies
- D. Projects related with the environmental and food education run by social and educational farms

Others aspects introduced by law 141

- Criterion to be recognized as SF actor based on the relevance of agricultural sales on the over all annual turn over of the organization(> 30%)
 - ✓Intrusts the Regional Authorities to set take care of the formal recognition of SF actors
- Support to SF actors can be given through:
 - ✓product sales in public canteens
 - ✓facilitating sale points in public areas
 - ✓priority access to public agricultural land
 - ✓through the Regional Development Programs (2014-20)
 - ✓Introduces a National Observatory(20 members in representation of Regions and CSOs)
- **Two National networks representing the social farms: Social Farming National Forum and National Network of Social Farm**

The challenge in the next future

- implementing decrees of Law 141
- Training for: farmers, social workers, Local Authorities Administrative Staff
- To introduce SF in the University Curricula and secondary school (Polytechnic University of Marche Region has introduced a Master Degree in SF, Tor Vergata started a I level Master; UniSannio II Master Degree In management of Social Farm)
- To quantify the social impact of SF in terms of wellbeing of the people included in farm process and local community and also the potential reduction of costs for the National Health services and social services



Forum Nazionale Agricoltura Sociale

Thanks for your attention

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