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TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

THE IMPLICATIONS OF SOCIAL FARMING FOR RURAL POVERTY REDUCTION

FINAL REPORT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Session 1	
Laying the foundations: What is social farming?.....	2
1.1 Welcome and opening remarks	2
1.2 Presentation of the background concept paper.....	3
1.3 Presentation of social farming experiences.....	5
Session 2.....	11
Linking social farming to specific rural poverty reduction approaches and tools.....	11
Session 3.....	18
Moving from theory to practice: elements of an operational programme to support social farming in developing countries.....	18
3.1 Presentation of a possible pathway to support social farming in developing countries	18
3.2 Group work – World Café	20
Way Forward.....	24
Annex 1 – Agenda.....	26
Annex 2 – List of participants	27
Annex 3 – Short Bios	29
Annex 4 – List of participating institutions.....	33

INTRODUCTION

On 15 December 2014, FAO in collaboration with the University of Pisa organized a Technical Workshop on The Implications of Social Farming for Rural Poverty Reduction.

The workshop formed part of the broader programme of work on social farming under FAO's Strategic Programme 3 on Reducing Rural Poverty and in particular of its outcome on formulating and implementing policies. Preceding the workshop, FAO in collaboration with the University of Pisa developed a background concept paper on Social Farming for Rural Poverty Reduction and organized an online discussion on *Social farming (also called care farming): an innovative approach for promoting women's economic empowerment, decent rural employment and social inclusion. What works in developing countries?*¹

The *overall goal* of the Technical Workshop was to explore the possible contribution of social farming to rural poverty reduction through rural women's economic empowerment, decent rural employment creation, and social protection. This document provides a summary of the presentations, discussions, conclusions and recommendations of the workshop.

The *specific objectives* of the workshop were:

- To present and open for comment the background concept paper on Social Farming for Rural Poverty Reduction elaborated by FAO and the University of Pisa;
- To share experiences of social farming practices from developed and developing countries;
- To identify possible entry points for the application of social farming in developing countries; and
- To explore synergies and potential collaboration among interested partners.

The programme of the Technical Workshop included the following three main sessions:

- Session 1 – Laying the foundations: What is social farming?
- Session 2 – Linking social farming to specific rural poverty reduction approaches and tools
- Session 3 – Moving from theory to practice: elements of an operational programme to support social farming in developing countries

The detailed agenda of the workshop can be found in Annex 1.

The 28 participants consisted of social farming practitioners from Colombia, Italy and the United Republic of Tanzania, representatives of UN Agencies (ILO, UNRISD), a European Institution (European Economic and Social Committee), international NGOs (Oxfam International and Oxfam Italia), non-profit organizations (CESC-Project, COSPE, ORISS and AiCARE), a cooperative (UECoop Turin), farmers' organizations (Coldiretti and Confederation Paysanne France), universities (University of Pisa, University of Tuscia, University Carlos III, Madrid and University of Edinburgh) as well as FAO staff. The list of participants with contact details can be found in Annex 2.

The organizers of the workshop wish to express their appreciation to the Coordinator of FAO's Strategic Programme 3 on Rural Poverty Reduction, Rob Vos, and to the Deputy Director of FAO's Social Protection Division (ESP), Brave Ndisale, for their support and contribution, and to the participants for their involvement and valuable input to the workshop.

This report was prepared by Hajnalka Petrics, FAO; Paola Tamma, FAO; Cristiano Rossignoli, University of Pisa, Italy; and Marina Garcia-Llorente, University Carlos III, Madrid.

¹ FAO Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition: <http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/forum/discussions/care-farming>. Through the Forum 46 contributions from 24 countries were received. The consultation helped to gain a better understanding of how the term social (or care) farming is known outside of academic circles, to collect concrete examples of social farming practices from the United Republic of Tanzania, Colombia and India, among others, as well as to receive methodological contributions which were valuable for further defining the concept paper and will be useful for the development of the country implementation approach.

SESSION 1

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS: WHAT IS SOCIAL FARMING?

The objective of Session 1 was to establish a common understanding among workshop participants of what social farming is and how it operates, in order to clarify concepts and discuss the potential of social farming in developing countries. Mr Rob Vos, the Coordinator of FAO's Strategic Programme on Reducing Rural Poverty, introduced participants to FAO's work on social farming. Subsequently, the presentation of the background concept paper on Social Farming for Rural Poverty Reduction summarized the paper's content, including a working definition of social farming, its principles, the regulatory frameworks in which it can work, its users, and the providers and other actors involved. The second part of the presentation of the concept paper outlined how social farming can be linked to three priority areas of FAO's rural poverty reduction approach.

1.1 WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Rob Vos, Coordinator of FAO's Strategic Programme on Reducing Rural Poverty



Rob Vos opened the workshop and welcomed all participants on behalf of FAO. He introduced the broader context in which the work on social farming is placed, namely FAO's Strategic Programme 3 on Rural Poverty Reduction, which he coordinates, and gave the following reasons to explain why social farming is considered part of this broader programme:

- FAO recognizes the positive experiences of social farming in European countries and beyond;
- FAO embraces the underlying social farming principle of making economic and social objectives coincide;
- social farming targets vulnerable groups and seeks their reintegration into society.

Subsequently Mr Vos underlined how social farming integrates three priority areas of FAO's rural poverty reduction approach, which are i) rural women's economic empowerment, ii) decent rural employment and iii) social protection. He also gave an overview of FAO's work on social farming. The first phase of this work saw the production of a background concept paper on Social Farming for Rural Poverty Reduction in collaboration with the University of Pisa, as well as the organization of the present workshop with the exact aim of validating the concept paper as well as identifying suitable entry points for a practical approach for country-level implementation. He mentioned that during the second phase of the programme, the details of the practical approach would be developed and piloted. Mr Vos concluded by pointing out that FAO's work programme on social farming responds to the recommendations made by the European Economic and Social Committee in its own initiative opinion of 2012, in which the Committee recommended the inclusion of social farming in sustainable development strategies as a potential means to fight against poverty and to promote social inclusion and the diversification of farming activities. His final words encouraged all to contribute to defining a meaningful and practical approach to social farming: *"If it truly helps provide a more dignified and decent living for the most vulnerable, it is our duty to make it happen. Leaving no one behind is as much a humane, as well as an economic proposition"*.

1.2 PRESENTATION OF THE BACKGROUND CONCEPT PAPER

Francesco Di Iacovo and Hajnalka Petrics



Following the opening remarks, Francesco Di Iacovo and Hajnalka Petrics (co-authors) presented the background concept paper on Social Farming for Rural Poverty Reduction.²

Given that no universal definition exists, they offered a working definition of social farming: an umbrella term for all those activities that make use of agricultural, rural and natural resources (plants, animals, the space and time of nature) in order to produce food and social services in both rural and peri-urban areas. Social farming can be seen as a process of social innovation where agricultural and rural resources are mobilized in an unconventional way in order to respond to local social needs.

They also shared some key messages, namely that i) social farming is not charity, but rather is about re-embedding the economy in the local context; ii) it can co-produce economic, social and environmental sustainability; and iii) it enhances resilience and community-based perspectives for rural development. The scenario in which social farming is gaining relevance was described as follows:

- Rural areas traditionally have weak social services, which negatively influence local opportunities and livelihoods.
- The current economic regime is not redistributive – on the contrary, it fosters widening inequality; meanwhile states have fewer resources for public intervention.
- The current priority is to recognize, implement and support those socially innovative activities able to actively mobilize local resources to answer pressing social needs.

Social services in rural areas are evolving differently according to local transition processes. In light of this, different rural areas can be distinguished as follows:

1. Areas where mainly traditional self-help nets are currently in place;
2. Areas where local/national governments are planning to introduce new services;
3. Areas where local services are under pressure because of reductions in public expenditure.

Social farming will take different forms in each context, in accordance with local resources, the level of welfare provided centrally, and also through community initiatives.

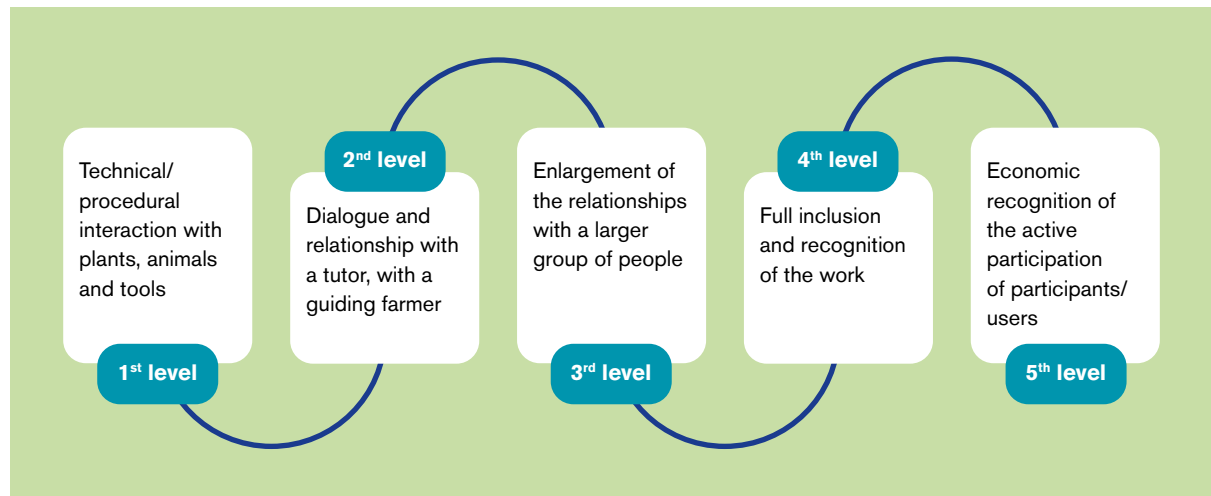
Social farming has been presented as:

- **SUSTAINABLE**: because it promotes nature-based solutions making use of plants, animals, rural spaces and traditional lifestyles in order to promote therapy, rehabilitation, social inclusion, education and social services in rural and peri-urban areas.
- **INCLUSIVE**: because it focuses on the reintegration of (small) groups of disadvantaged individuals who can live and work together with family farmers and social practitioners on the farm site. Such initiatives address diverse needs of less empowered people (including those with intellectual, psychiatric and physical disabilities, drug & alcohol addicts, children, youngsters, the elderly, (ex-) prisoners, ex-combatants, long-term unemployed, terminal patients, and people who are burnt out).
- **SMART**: because it mobilizes local resources and organizes them around the production of additional economic and social value. This is in line with a retro-innovative use of agriculture, shifting from solely food production to multifunctional farming.

Social farming can provide different benefits for its users according to their capabilities, through activities that are flexible in response to users' needs. The different levels of benefits and the path for active social inclusion that social farming can create are illustrated in the figure below:

² Di Iacovo, Petrics, Rossignoli and Tamma (forthcoming). Social farming for rural poverty reduction through women's empowerment, decent rural employment and social protection.

Figure 1. The five levels of the social farming paths



The presentation also mentioned that many social farming examples exist worldwide; they are consistently increasing in number in different contexts such as in Italy, where about 2 000 projects can be identified, as well as in the European Union overall, where about 10 000 social farming initiatives can be counted.

Social farming initiatives in rural areas involve a large number of relevant actors like farmers, the third sector, users and their families, local health institutions, and municipalities involved in the organization of local coalitions where a diverse culture, rules, resources, attitudes and tools are organized and mobilized.

During the presentation it was also pointed out that social farming practices are structured according to diverse regulatory rules or frameworks (community-based or specialized). These rules affect the organization and the outcomes of the individual practices, and the ways in which actors interact in the organization of the projects as well as in the production and redistribution of economic and social value. Such regulatory frameworks consist of:

- *Subsidiarity*: this implies less direct state intervention, where the state maintains its responsibilities and acts in support of private action while assessing and solving problems related to social issues and services.
- *Co-production*: co-design of services by providers and users; co-creation of economic and social

values (e.g. food and social inclusion) to produce private and public goods at the same time (e.g. food sold at market and increased social inclusion for the local community).

- *Civic economy*: new attitudes, based on responsibility and the ability to include public values in economic processes; markets based on reputation, trust and the creation of new networks, including consumption networks.

The second half of the presentation highlighted how social farming can be linked to the three priority areas of FAO's rural poverty reduction approach, which are

- Women's economic empowerment (WEE);
- Decent rural employment (DRE); and
- Social protection (SP).

As for WEE – that is, the ability to succeed and advance economically, and the power and agency to make and act on economic decisions³ – human capital and the quantity and quality of labour were highlighted as crucial factors for achieving it. The disproportionate work burden related to care influences the quantity and quality of labour available and the opportunities for skills development, education and access to employment of the main caretakers, who are most often women. The availability of care services affects WEE and particularly the feasibility for women to return to formal employment after childbirth. In light of this, social farming can provide innovative care services able to:

³ Golla, A.M., Malhotra, A., Nanda, P., & Mehra, R. 2011. *Understanding and measuring women's economic empowerment: definition, framework and indicators*. Washington, DC, International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW). Retrieved from <http://www.icrw.org>.

- Reduce women’s work burden related to care;
- free time up that can be invested in income-generating activities, and
- enable rural women to be providers of care services;

As for DRE, the links with social farming can be traced by looking at how

- social farming focuses on the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and the opportunity to promote their potential and skills in the perspective of wider social acceptance and appreciation;
- social farming is able to increase participants’ self-esteem and sense of usefulness, and improve their skills and employability.

In terms of employment, providers of social farming initiatives can benefit from social farming to the extent that they gain access to higher returns and new networks. For instance, farmers initiating a social farming activity will automatically attract new clients from their beneficiaries’ families and friend circles. There is also the potential for increased trust, partnerships, local economic development, connection with nature, engagement in environmental education, etc. For participants’ family member, the main benefit is the reduction in unpaid care work and thus indirectly their increased availability for employment or community work.

Regarding *social protection*, it was highlighted how social farming is able to address gender inequalities, marginalization and discrimination to the extent that it can

- foster a culture of inclusiveness and tolerance, working against social, economic and cultural biases and discrimination;
- protect human rights, such as the right to live with dignity and to have access to education, employment, care and health care; and
- generate social inclusion by reintegrating participants into society as a positive spillover effect.

Social farming can also enhance the resilience of the participants (i.e. promote their self-empowerment) and also that of the local community as it becomes more cohesive.

By having a multidimensional approach, social farming has prevention, protection, promotion and transformation elements, and can protect the human rights of various groups of people at different points in their life cycles.

The presentation was followed by a discussion, during which the following main points were raised:

- The role of social farming on nutrition should be stressed as well as its capacity to promote the consumption of quality and healthy foods (e.g. healthy diets). In addition, social farming has the capacity to reconnect human well-being with nature by developing greater awareness and education on production of healthy food through sustainable methods.
- It is important to improve the understanding of the economic value of social farming not only in relation to the economic advantages of providers, but also in terms of the great public savings social farming practices can potentially generate by reducing the cost for social services.⁴
- The multifunctional nature of agriculture is one of the key aspects of social farming.
- Social farming is also linked to values of environmental conservation. social farming might promote the conservation of agro-ecosystems that are essential to preserving biodiversity (e.g. local breeds, seeds or varieties), local ecological knowledge and cultural landscapes.
- Social farming has the capacity to create win-win situations with other economic activities (for example through agrotourism).

1.3 PRESENTATION OF SOCIAL FARMING EXPERIENCES

Following the presentation of the background concept paper, three invitees from Colombia, Italy and the United Republic of Tanzania shared their own first-hand experiences with social farming. The objective of this session was to provide additional insights into the different aspects of social farming activities, including the regulatory framework and the socio-economic context in which they exist; the type of users and providers; funding sources; and their challenges and achievements. The session was chaired and facilitated by Brave Ndisale, Deputy Director, ESP.

⁴ Similar initiatives, although not involved in farming activities, show how the reintegration of disadvantaged individuals into productive activities can generate up to €6 000 savings per person employed per year (see the study by Borzaga and Depedri, 2013, evaluating the net benefits of work-integration cooperatives in the Trento province, Italy). This is not to say that the state should seek to transfer its social welfare responsibilities to the private sector. Rather, the state should take responsibility for social services and encourage these kinds of initiatives, for example through fiscal incentives and subsidies for participants.

PRESENTATION OF SOCIAL FARMING EXPERIENCES FROM EUROPE – THE CASE OF THE TURIN NETWORK

Martina Sabbadini, UECoop/Coldiretti Turin



Introduction

Coldiretti Turin is a farmers' organization representing 80 percent of local farmers. In 2005 it started to

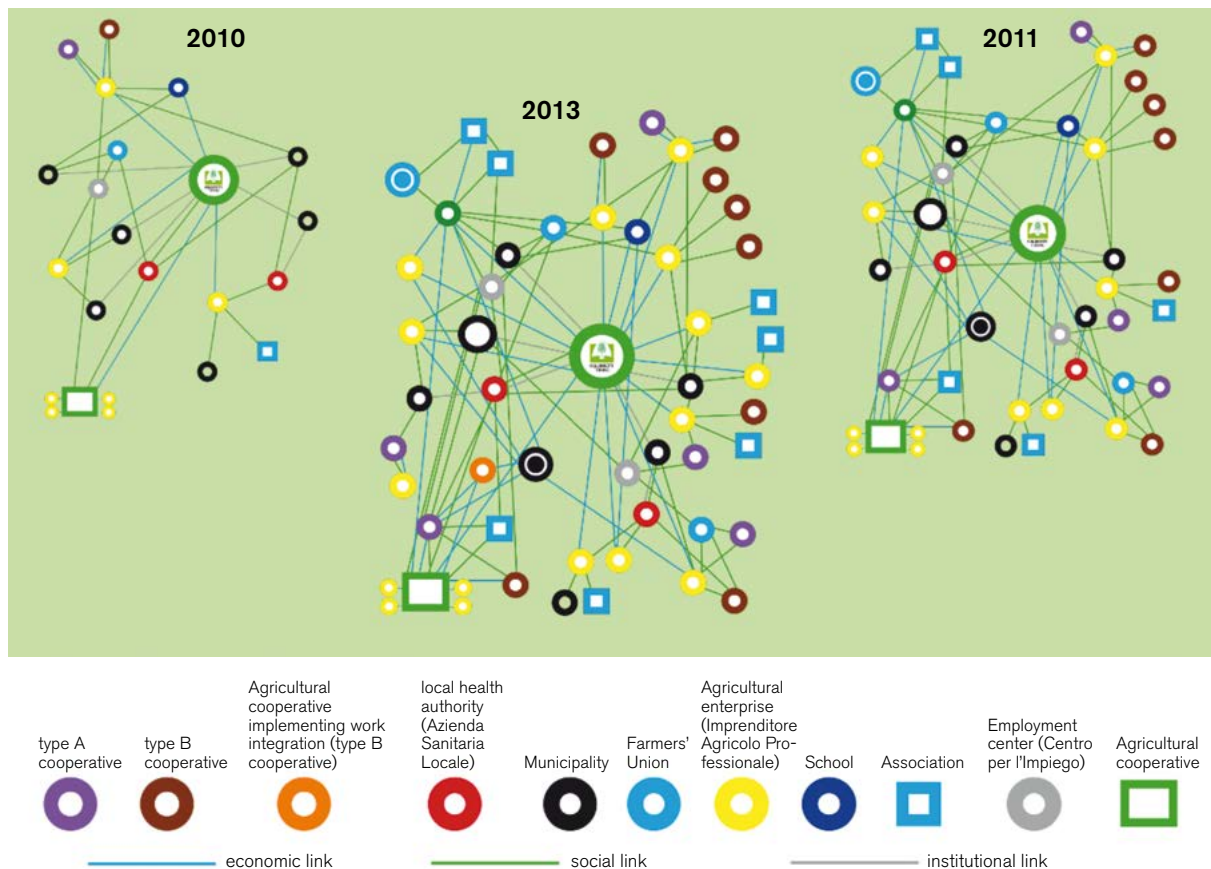
support local initiatives of social farming run by farmers. After these first experiences it initiated and ran a strategic programme for some years with the following objectives:

- Foster the transition to a new productive system able to produce both economic and social value;
- Disseminate social farming experiences.

Today, the social farming network supported by Coldiretti has reached these objectives and achieved a strong presence in the region. The figure below illustrates the growth of the social farming Turin Network.

During the presentation, two examples were given to stress how each social farming initiative is unique in its set-up, use of local resources, phases of development and level of outcomes. However, in each of the farms involved, social farming principles of co-production,

Figure 2. Social farming Network



In Italy, cooperatives can be of many types. Type A and B cooperatives are recognized as "social cooperatives" because of the nature of their activities: type A cooperatives engage in production of social services (education/health/social services), whereas type B cooperatives are work-integration cooperatives of vulnerable subjects. These differences are described in law 381/1991, "Disciplina delle cooperative sociali". Other cooperatives can be mutual (for the benefit of their members), agricultural, etc.

subsidiarity and civic economy shaped the actual social farming experiences for both participants and providers, contributing to the creation of economic, social and environmental value from formerly idle or underused resources.

Main actors

The strength of the Turin Network consists in engaging different actors, such as farms, social cooperatives, public and private service providers, beneficiaries' families/volunteer organizations, and consumers/customers for a new welfare based on subsidiarity, co-production and civic economy. In 2013, participants of the initiative included:

- 38 farms
- 15 social cooperatives
- Associations
- Five municipalities and one union of municipalities
- One local action group (Leader+)
- One province (social, labour, agricultural departments)
- Two public health service providers (ASL)
- Two public social service providers (*ConSORZI dei servizi*)

Main results

The social farming network supported by Coldiretti Turin is an example of the multifunctionality of agriculture and the diversity of positive outcomes for all those involved. By 2013, the 38 farms involved produced €3 million from the sale of products and services produced on the farm. The network as a whole created 37 new jobs and catered for 160 service users. Users belong to various groups with low-contractual power (physically and mentally disabled, refugees, victims of abuse, etc.) and are involved to varying degrees in farming activities, in accordance with their capabilities and health. Many of them are now regularly employed; all experienced an improvement in their health and well-being as a result of taking part in productive activities on the farm, receiving a nominal wage, socializing more, and producing and eating healthy food.

The Network produced spinoff enterprises, such as one new farmers' cooperative and a shop selling social farming products. It also generated important savings for social and health public service providers by turning formerly inactive patients into productive

and healthier people. This is however hard to quantify, due to the necessity of monetizing health benefits and providing an estimate for the average savings generated by employing a disadvantaged individual (for instance, the estimate will be different for a refugee than for a mentally disabled person).

On top of this, there are other benefits that are intangible but nonetheless important: a culture of collaboration, new relationships between local partners and actors, innovative methodologies in health and social services, transition to more inclusive local economies, and an action plan for “civil food” – supplying local procurement demand (for hospitals, schools, office canteens) through social farming farms.

PRESENTATION OF SOCIAL FARMING EXPERIENCES FROM THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA – THE INUKA PROJECT

Michelangelo Chiurchiù, CESC-Project



Introduction

In 2009, the NGO CESC-Project started the project “Inuka” (“Get up” in Swahili), a programme of community-based rehabilitation (CBR) in the region of Njombe in southwest Tanzania. CBR is a methodology, recommended by the UN and the World Health Organization (WHO), which aims to enhance networks and relationships of persons with disabilities within their village for effective rehabilitation and reintegration.

To date, the Inuka project has realized:

- A Rehabilitation Centre in Wanging'ombe, the headquarters of the district, offering gym rehabilitation and medical-related treatments, with

- 20 local operators including three physiotherapists, one doctor, one psychologist, one occupational therapist and several basic operators;
- A hostel to accommodate mothers and persons with disabilities during the “weeks intensive treatment” (WIT) which takes place three times a year;
 - Six health and social centres located in nearby villages that welcome children with disabilities, and where the activities of home rehabilitation take place; and
 - Training activities for teachers of disabled children in schools.

The goal that was set from the beginning was to provide an immediate response to the needs of mothers with disabled children. The situation is serious because in 30-35 percent of the cases when a child is born with disabilities the husband or partner abandons the family, leaving the rest of the family in conditions of extreme insecurity.

Funding

The centre's financial sustainability was organized along the formula of 40 - 30 - 30:

- 40% of the funding comes from the Tanzanian Government.
- 30% of funding comes from the users (not just in monetary terms but also through food production of corn, beans, rice).
- 30% of funding comes from fundraising and income-generating activities (IGA).

Main activities

The project's sustainability is centred on IGA and especially on what the Tanzanian partners do best: cultivate the land. So they developed an agricultural project called “Shamba”. The essential elements of the project are:

- Progressive land reclamation of 70 hectares acquired by the Diocese of Njombe (a project partner), most of them fallow for a long time. The project is currently using the first 20 hectares;
- Use of agricultural machinery donated from Italy: two tractors, a combine harvester, a plow, a ripper, a drill, etc.;
- Starting a herd of pigs and other farm animals.

In particular, they implemented three activities:

1. Establishment of an oil mill factory for the production of high-quality sunflower oil;
2. Establishment of an agriculture training school, Mamre College;
3. Contract farming.

Sunflower oil mill

To date 59 000 kg of seed has been collected and 2 100 litres of oil produced. A part of the profits of the oil mill – 2 000 000 Tanzanian shillings – has been designated to support the budget of the Rehabilitation Centre (3.5 percent of the budget of Inuka). Inuka Southern Highlands CBR helps persons with disabilities to recover their dignity and reaffirm their rights, involving them in the productive activities of the factory as well as giving them financial independence. For instance, four people with disabilities already work at the sunflower mill. The chance of employment for persons with disabilities is a strong signal for the entire community, strengthening the concept that every person can contribute to society. Furthermore, Inuka's income obtained from these activities represents an opportunity for development for the whole surrounding area. Inuka commits itself to buy the raw materials from local farmers, which it then uses to produce oil that will be sold in the markets of the Southern Highlands area.

Mamre College

Linked to the Shamba project, Inuka promoted the construction and launch of an agricultural school specifically for the education of young people. Currently 31 young people (aged from 19 to 23 years) have been enrolled in the first course (after secondary school). The goal is to qualify these young people to enable them to work in family farms, and therefore offer greater opportunities for economic development in the region of Njombe.

Contract sunflower farm

Tanzania Southern Highlands' sunflower production is still dependent on subsistence agriculture. Owing to the possible risks and costs, farmers are often reluctant to adopt new technologies and diversify from traditional crops. The reason for this custom derives from inadequate knowledge of the best agricultural practices, as well as poor economic resources. In order

to overcome these issues and to promote social and economic development in the Wanging'ombe district area, Inuka Southern Highlands CBR decided to start contract farming operations. The programme consists of supplying farmers with improved sunflower seeds and fertilizer and in purchasing the final product at agreed price conditions. Contract farming aims to provide benefits for both the farmers and Inuka. Indeed, the involved farmers have an assured market, receive training, increase their income, and eliminate risks of price fluctuations. Likewise, projected yields and desired quality have improved.

Sunflower contract farming received great support from farmers: 136 signed the contract with a total of 70 hectares available for cultivation. The significant economic improvement in the area has had a remarkable social impact on the population: people have improved their skills and the community cohesion has been strengthened.

Main results

The project activities have developed an economic system based on social farming that has the following four strengths:

1. The development of a local economic system that reinforces the current economic activities: the efficient cultivation of sunflower and the use of machinery to increase production.
2. New opportunities for families, especially those with children with disabilities who require supplementary income to meet rehabilitation needs.
3. New and expanded opportunities for persons with disabilities who can thus benefit from true labour inclusion.
4. Opportunities for *young people* who, after their studies, have the opportunity to apply the knowledge gained in their family farms, offering support to the IGA of Inuka and thus strengthening the local economy.

PRESENTATION OF SOCIAL FARMING EXPERIENCES FROM LATIN AMERICA – THE CASE OF THE GRANJA TARAPACA

Gunnar Mordhorst, Granja Tarapaca, Cali, Colombia



Main activities

The Granja Tarapacá is a community-based social farming project in a peri-urban area of Cali, Colombia. It was initiated in 2009 by parents of children with disabilities and also agricultural professionals, with the objective to offer comprehensive care to people (e.g. children, adolescents and young adults) with different abilities. At the moment, the Granja Tarapacá welcomes 19 people every day from 07.00 until 15.00.

The farm is nearly one hectare and its operations include cattle, goat and small animal breeding for the production of milk and meat, which are partially processed on the farm. In addition, cereal crops, tubers and grains, and fruits and vegetables are cultivated. The vegetables are produced for self-consumption and for sale to the families of the beneficiaries. Part of the vegetable production is processed on the farm.

In a productive biodynamic farm environment, the Granja Tarapacá aims to offer optimal conditions for the development and comprehensive education and care of children and youth, as well as opportunities for young adults with disabilities to find life options with the highest autonomy possible at home, in a work environment, and in the community. The Granja takes a holistic approach, integrating education, health, comprehensive care and agriculture. Activities are carried out in a safe, productive, but non-pressured environment linked to life processes in nature, which greatly facilitates the improvement in health

and social relations. Two former participants of the Granja Tarapacá social farming activities were able to start their own farming activities, and a third one is becoming a farm assistant.

Main actors and funding

The professionals in the project come from different disciplines, including a school teacher, two social therapists, a farmer, an assistant, three volunteers, and another worker doing different tasks. Often they have support from university students during internship periods. In fact, the farm offers the opportunity to attend agriculture courses, with school visits and placements for students.

The Corporation Rudolf Steiner is the legal owner of the project and also provides administrative support. As far as funding is concerned, the sources are manifold. For example, families pay for the services but the farm also receives donations from private enterprises. The Corporation is also trying to identify people or organizations who could provide users with scholarships in order to pay for the social farming services.

The main stakeholders involved are the service-users and their families, the farmers, the social and health professionals, volunteers, the Corporation Rudolf Steiner, entrepreneurs, agricultural commercial shops (Biotienda Tierra Viva and Ecohuerto), and a project on environmental education. In addition, other social actors have shown their interest in the initiative, such as SENA (National Service of Learning), ICBF (Colombian Family Welfare Institute), Clínica Vale del Lili (Health Institute), the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and different universities (Del Valle, Autónoma, ICESI) and Comfandi (Family Compensation Fund of Valle del Cauca).

Main challenges

- To secure space and the ability to develop organic agriculture together with therapeutic and educational activities;
- To establish a community organization able to develop a range of programmes in a comprehensive way;
- To integrate social farming in programmes focusing on health, education, attention to disability and the elderly;
- In terms of funding: to integrate private and public resources, in order to see whether resources available by law to persons with disabilities (disability benefits) could be used to pay for social farming services in a transparent way;
- To have access to land through agreements with the State, purchases, and donations; to have access to suitable technologies as well.

Main points of discussion following the presentations on social farming practices

The three presentations shed light on the reality of social farming in diverse contexts and situations. During the discussion held after the presentations, the following main elements arose:

- Farmers' organizations can have an important role in supporting the development of social farming, as illustrated in the Turin case.
- Social farming is able to proactively combine social inclusion and job creation by clearly linking the professional production of food with the active social inclusion of less empowered people, as illustrated in the Granja Tarapaca project.
- There are opportunities to produce not only economic but also social value by linking production with social and health services, as illustrated in the Inuka project.

SESSION 2

LINKING SOCIAL FARMING TO SPECIFIC RURAL POVERTY REDUCTION APPROACHES AND TOOLS

Session 2 focused on the linkages between social farming and the three priority areas of FAO's rural poverty reduction approach, namely women's economic empowerment (WEE), decent rural employment (DRE) and social protection (SP). In order to do this, three presentations were given on related topics by the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Oxfam International. They highlighted many pertinent areas of work of the respective institutions and also potential areas for collaboration in relation to social farming in the context of rural poverty reduction. The session was chaired and facilitated by Brave Ndisale, Deputy Director, ESP.

SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY AND SOCIAL FARMING

Marie-Adélaïde Matheï, Research Analyst,
UNRISD



The presentation gave a brief overview of social and solidarity economy (SSE).

SSE refers to a specific group of organizations (mostly cooperatives, associations, mutual benefit societies and social enterprises) undertaking economic activities that are people- and needs-centred. Examples include reclaimed worker-owned enterprises (Argentina), Community Supported Agriculture schemes (Italy), microcredit institutions (India), etc.⁵ SSE was presented as an expanding field as illustrated by the 250 million cooperative workers worldwide, securing the livelihoods of 3 billion people (or about half the world population).⁶ Cooperatives are experiencing a revival in Africa and Latin America, social enterprises are mushrooming in Europe and Asia, and there about 2.5 million women involved with self-help groups just within India alone. Other initiatives such as fair trade markets, solidarity finance schemes and global networks (such as *Via Campesina*) can also be counted among SSE enterprises.

Experts recognize the centrality of producing goods and services as a common feature of SSE organizations, hence social and economic goals are jointly pursued, and profit is the *means* rather than an end in itself. This form of economic activity takes different names in different geographical areas: "Social Economy" mainly in Europe and the developed world; "Popular Economy" in Latin America; "non-profit", "not-for-profit" and recently "low-profit" in the United States of America; and "the third sector" more broadly everywhere.⁷

SSE also has clear links to social inclusion, empowerment of the most vulnerable groups, and decent employment (ILO 2011). It is based on and contributes to social cohesion, maintaining or creating linkages between people belonging to the same geographical area. Moreover, membership in SSE organizations can

⁵ For a selection of case studies and a conceptual note linking SSE to the work of the United Nations, please see the publications section of the dedicated Web site of the United Nations Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (available at <http://www.unrisd.org/tfsse>).

⁶ International Cooperative Alliance (available at <http://ica.coop/en/whats-co-op/co-operative-facts-figures>).

⁷ *Social and Solidarity Economy: Our common road towards Decent Work* – Reader for the ILO Academy on Social And Solidarity Academy 2011 (available at http://www.ilo.org/empent/units/cooperatives/WCMS_166301/lang--en/index.htm).

contribute to the empowerment process: as they are democratically run (when not operating according to the “one person, one vote” rule as cooperatives, SSE organizations are still meant to guarantee engagement and participation of all stakeholders in key decisions), SSE organizations contribute not only to the empowerment of members within the same goal-oriented group of people, but also to enhancing the community’s strength and bargaining position *vis-à-vis* external stakeholders. Finally, SSE organizations are contributing (or could further contribute) to the Decent Work Agenda by improving labour standards and rights at work, decent employment and income, social protection, and social dialogue.

The resonance with social farming’s objectives and contributions is evident: most social farming activities will in fact exemplify SSE organization, despite the multiplicity of forms and partnerships, provided that they meet all or most of the criteria listed below.

Within SSE organizations, producers and communities are coming together to collectively organize production, exchange, consumption and even finance with

1. Explicit social (and often environmental) objectives (e.g. basic needs provisioning, care services, employing the unemployed, food security);
2. Values and practices of cooperation and solidarity; and
3. Democratic self-management and decision-making.

As such, the rise of SSE organizations bodes well for sustainable development. In addition, it was indicated that social farming seems to share similar principles with SSE organizations.

Drivers of SSE were also presented:

- Recurring crises linked to finance, food, fuel and climate change;
- New realities and perceptions of vulnerability and inequality linked to deregulation and *financialization*;
- New forms of identity politics and social movements struggling for cultural rights, gender equality and environmental justice;
- A discursive shift in framing (sustainable) development (equality, rights, participation, empowerment);

- The United Nation’s post-2015 Agenda focusing on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Constraints with globalized market forces and neoliberalism vs engagement of non-state actors in service provisioning;

These are also other factors influencing the rise of social farming in developed and developing countries, as presented in the concept paper by Hajnalka Petrics and Francesco Di Iacovo. Shrinking welfare resources, multiple crises, globalization of local economies, and urbanization and abandonment of rural areas all contribute to the lack of services in many rural areas; this drives local communities, farmers and other stakeholders to propose alternative models for social and health services and initiate social farming initiatives.

During the presentation it was also indicated that there are areas of tension associated with scaling up SSE, related to weak initial conditions, assets, and competencies; SSE practices often being locked in commodity sectors with low value added; and an unfavourable environment associated with finance (access, instability) as well as the pressures of commercialization and financialization of production. These tensions might in some cases affect social farms as well as other SSE initiatives, and should be taken into account when considering scaling up or replicating social farming. Another remark was on the tendency towards institutional imitation as well as the possibility for elite capture of SSE organizations and gains. There is also a trade-off between scale and the difficulties associated with transitioning from personal to impersonal exchange, which calls for effective regulatory mechanisms. In addition, there are issues of dependency, co-opting and top-down SSE policies, as well as theories, policies and strategies that ignore structural conditions that constrain SSE rather than advancing it. Last but not least, the tendency towards the subordination of women within leadership structures was also mentioned.

Finally, Ms Mathei mentioned how the UN has actively advocates for SSE on different occasions, such as:

- UNRISD International Conference, “Potential and Limits of SSE” (May 2013);
- UNRISD Publications: Briefs, Occasional Paper series, Think Pieces & forthcoming book (www.unrisd.org/sse);

- UN Inter-Agency Task Force on SSE (TFSSE), founded by UNRISD, ILO, UNDP & UN-NGLS (September 2013): Position paper: www.unsse.org (repository of UN publications related to SSE).

SOCIAL FARMING AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT THROUGH THE RECOGNITION, REDUCTION AND REDISTRIBUTION OF UNPAID CARE WORK

Carine Pionetti (Consultant), Thalia Kidder (Oxfam International) and Lorenzo Paoli (Oxfam Italia)



As an introduction to the presentation, Lorenzo Paoli from Oxfam Italia stressed the great interest that Oxfam has in social farming concepts and initiatives. It has the willingness to explore, analyse and introduce the concept in its activities around the world, and Mr Paoli underlined the relevance of the workshop in such a perspective.

After Mr Paoli's contribution, Carine Pionetti made a presentation with the following outline:

1. Women's Economic Empowerment and Care (WE-Care)
 - What is care? What constitutes unpaid care work?
 - Why is it important to work on care?
 - Exploring care issues at the community level: the WE-Care approach
 - Current Oxfam programmes addressing care
2. Social farming and the WE-Care approach
 - Social farming and care work: Issues to consider
 - Social farming, care and women's economic empowerment: Synergies to explore

In the introduction, Ms Pionetti explained Oxfam's related work, for example the Gendered Enterprise and Markets Programme (GEM). During the implementation of the programme in Colombia, the challenges faced by women leaders emerged clearly: women were spending 8 hours per week on the enterprise and 43 hours on housework/care activities. Consequently Oxfam identified the reduction of unpaid care work as a critical area for women's economic empowerment. Ms Pionetti explained that unpaid care work consists of:

- Direct care of persons – feeding, dressing, caregiving;
- Housework – cooking, washing clothes, shopping, collecting water;
- Caring for people in communities.

At the same time, Ms Pionetti stressed how care is critical for human well-being in general, i.e. all continuously received care, not just care for the weak, the vulnerable, or for youth. Oxfam aims for quality in the care of persons, and affirms the right of women and men to give as well as receive quality care. Unpaid care work can also be transformed into paid care work, as in the case of child care services, cleaners and home nurses. In this respect the focus should be given to the role of societies in providing care, an approach that is captured by the "Care Diamond" created by Shahra Razavi,⁸ which shows the necessary involvement of the State, market/employers, NGOs, civil society and household/families in the provision of care. Yet global evidence suggests that care work is heavy and unequally distributed (as presented in the figure below), thus calling for changes in the way it is currently being provisioned.

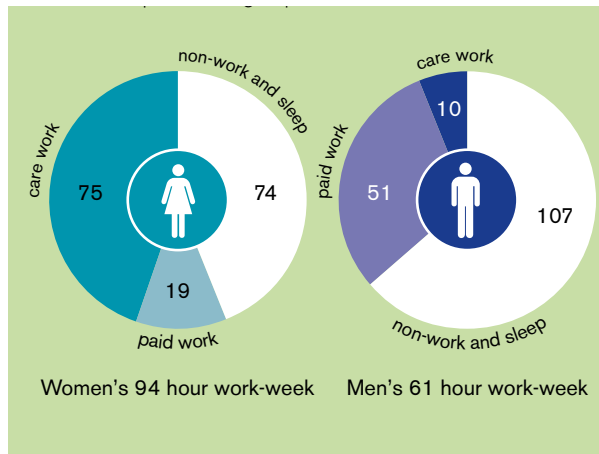
The following points were also addressed:

- Heavy and unequal care responsibility entrenches women's disproportionate vulnerability to poverty across their lifetime.
- Reducing and redistributing care is a precondition for achieving women's empowerment.
- Heavy and unequal care is a barrier to women's greater involvement in the labour market, affecting productivity and economic growth.

⁸ Razavi, S. 2007. *The Political and Social Economy of Care in a Development Context*. UNRISD.

What did we do this week?

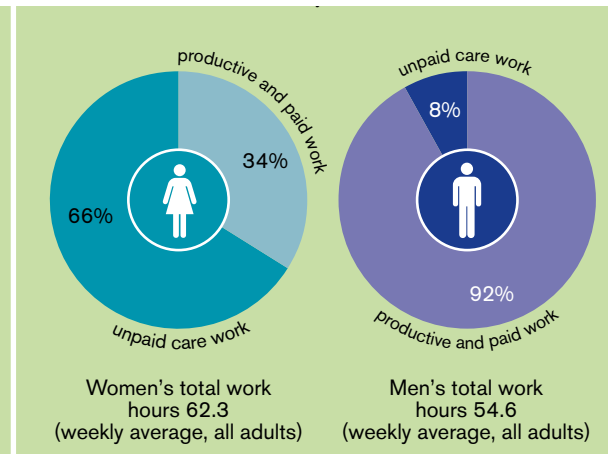
Honduras, Copan Focus group



Source: Oxfam Focus Group 2013

Who works more?

India National Time Use study



Source: Budlender, UN RISD 2008

These points stressed how investing in care has a widespread, long-term, positive impact on well-being and development. It is critical to addressing inequality and vulnerability, and it positively influences productivity and women's access to paid work.

Oxfam introduced the 4R's approach to addressing women's heavy unpaid burden:

- **R**ecognition of care work
- **R**eduction of difficult, inefficient tasks
- **R**edistributing responsibility for care more equitably – from women to men, and from families to the State
- **R**epresentation of caregivers in decision-making

Oxfam also launched the WE-Care approach (Women's Economic Empowerment and Care):

- A three-year initiative started in April 2014 to implement new action research methodologies to assess care provision; to develop innovative interventions to address heavy and unequal care; and to learn "what works" and use evidence to influence development policy and practice.

In order to support this process, a WE-Care tool was developed: the Rapid Care Analysis, a participatory method based on four steps and with the involvement of local facilitators. It is a low-cost methodology, and

takes one to two days to carry out. In order to gather numerical evidence about care work, the Household Care Survey was also developed: a quantitative survey, including specific indicators of change and measures for simultaneous activities. The key outputs of the Rapid Care Analysis normally are:

- Initial figures on hours spent doing care work ("not just stories");
- Gender and age roles in care provisioning;
- A locally relevant problem statement;
- Locally appropriate solutions to begin reducing and redistributing care work.

Given these experiences, social farming might be considered as a mechanism to reduce care work, considering women's overwhelming care roles. The presentation ended by describing some of the possible synergies between social farming, care work and women's economic empowerment:

- Job creation – child care centres
- Higher recognition of women's knowledge and skills in sustainable farming and nutrition
- Women farmers playing a key role in initiating social farming projects (with adequate remuneration)
- Integrating principles of WEE into social farming

DECENT WORK IN SOCIAL FARMING: GOOD PRACTICES FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION

Carla Henry, Senior Specialist for Agriculture and Related Sectors, ILO



The third presentation was given by Carla Henry from the International Labour Organization of the UN (ILO). The presentation was organized along the following six points:

- Pro-rights approaches to benefiting persons with disabilities
- Defining and respecting the employment relationship
- Care work
- Social farming, entrepreneurship and active labour market policies
- Social protection floor initiatives
- Policy implications and actions to take forward

Pro-rights approaches to benefiting persons with disabilities

Ms Henry discussed ILO's mission, which is to ensure rights and standards at work. With regard to addressing the rights of persons with disabilities, she noted that

- National systems have historically focused primarily on medical rehabilitation, leaving many aspects of social and vocational rehabilitation in the shadows, with little focus on integration within the community and society.
- Social policy concerning persons with disabilities has mainly focused on benefits and compensation, and not on the accessibility of work or the workplace, or on the adaptation of work for such persons.

- Among many measures, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) calls for non-discrimination and reasonable accommodation to promote access to training and employment.

UNCRPD sets out specific duties and obligations for governments. It defines persons with disabilities as “those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others”. The term “reasonable accommodation”, according to the UNCRPD, “means necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case, to ensure to persons with disabilities the enjoyment or exercise on an equal basis with others of all human rights and fundamental freedoms”. Reasonable accommodation often implies additional costs for adjusting the workplace and making sure that workplace equipment complies with occupational safety and health norms and regulations, such as working hours. She emphasized that such compliance brings additional costs, and this should be considered also in social farming initiatives.

Ms Henry also discussed the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) Convention, 1983 (No. 159), accompanied by the related Recommendation No. 168, which refers to “an individual whose prospects of securing, retaining and advancing in suitable employment are substantially reduced as a result of a duly recognized physical or mental impairment”. Its provisions include the following:

- There should be equal opportunity between both disabled and non-disabled workers, and also between male and female disabled workers;
- Any special measures in favour of workers with disabilities should not be regarded as discriminating against other workers; and
- Where possible, workers with disabilities should also have access to programmes and services available to non-disabled workers.

Defining and respecting the employment relationship

To the extent that many social farming initiatives involve different forms of work, the employment relationship should receive careful consideration. Ms Henry summarized the traditional understanding of this relationship as

- The power to assign tasks and to give orders and directives to employees;
- The power to monitor both the performance of such tasks and compliance with orders and directives; and
- The power to sanction improper or negligent performance of the assigned tasks and given orders and directives.

Regarding the employment relationship, she talked about the need to ensure core protections and rights in social farming practices, particularly in relation to any risk of child and forced labour, adding that exploitation takes different forms, including sweatshop or farm workers kept by illegal tactics and often paid little or nothing; it disproportionately affects the most vulnerable and least protected people, such as women, low-skilled migrant workers, children, indigenous peoples and other groups.

Care work

Care work is part of some social farming scenarios to the extent that it offers an avenue of employment for poor, unskilled rural women and men. If performed under fair working conditions, care work within social farming scenarios can make a vital contribution to poverty alleviation. In countries that have initiated certified skills training and professionalization of care work, this has helped to improve the quality and terms of employment.

Possible links between social farming and entrepreneurship

Ms Henry noted that providers of social farming would likely benefit from entrepreneurship skills, business skills training in financial education, access to suitable credit and access to networks, as well as technical know-how and environmental protection/green business opportunities. While she highlighted some challenges in delivering such training, she saw a possibility for supporting women entrepreneurs' associations for social farming.

Ideally, social farming and promoting employment could be linked in the framework of active labour market policies in the following ways:

- Support for social farming as part of a comprehensive system of vocational rehabilitation and job placement of persons with disabilities, including through public employment services (PES). PES can also help to motivate employers to offer jobs to persons with disabilities through such policies as reduced taxes or subsidies on investment in the adaptation of workplaces, compensation for technical aid costs, subsidized (re-)training of persons with disabilities and/or compensation for the costs of mentors, and wage subsidies and other measures.
- Close cooperation with employers in the form of subsidized internships, etc.
- Wage subsidies to promote inclusion and to provide support to persons with disabilities in obtaining or retaining employment where their competences and skills are used to the best effect.

To conclude, she provided some suggestions on how social farming can be linked more formally with employment creation and social protection programmes at the country level:

- Through a strategy for promoting social farming that links to existing national employment and social protection plans for persons with disabilities/special vulnerabilities, in order to formalize initiatives; this strategy should link multiple providers (health, technical and vocational education and training, agriculture, etc.);

- By taking steps to address human rights and working conditions, and also build capacity and skills of providers;
- By developing an effective data collection system designed to track progress and performance of social farms and to communicate programme results;
- Through ongoing national schemes and dialogue processes that incorporate the social farming concept in relation to social protection programmes.

Main elements of the discussion following the presentations from UNRISD, Oxfam and ILO

- There are evident links between the concept of social and solidarity economy and the concept of social farming. SSE sits in a hybrid zone between the public sector (with its over-stretched welfare budgets) and the profit-oriented private sector. It is characterized by its social aim, which is pursued through economic activities. The role of the private sector is crucial in social farming: private farms are able to create bonds with the public and the third sector as well as to work towards the creation of a civic agriculture.
- Social farming is demanding in terms of coordination among sectors and competences.
- It is relevant to address the diverse institutional scales (national, local) in the implementation of social farming. Should the promotion of social farming start at the national or local level? Is it possible to think in terms of transversal projects working at a local level, linked by a national coordinating arena?
- Social farming puts high demands on administration, coordination, and monitoring and evaluation to coordinate a large number of stakeholders into a multipurpose venture. However, it also allows for reflection on the role of communities in enhancing local possibilities by better mobilizing existing resources. Furthermore, it inspires different thinking about laws and regulations as well as conventional economic actors, by challenging preconceptions and standardized services.

SESSION 3

MOVING FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE: ELEMENTS OF AN OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME TO SUPPORT SOCIAL FARMING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The objective of Session 3 was to discuss what could be part of an FAO country-level operational programme to identify and support social farming initiatives in developing countries. In the first half of the session, a possible pathway for supporting social farming in developing countries was described, which set the grounds for discussion. Afterwards, participants formed groups and brainstormed about enabling actions, environments and alliances for social farming.

3.1 PRESENTATION OF A POSSIBLE PATHWAY TO SUPPORT SOCIAL FARMING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Francesco Di Iacovo and Cristiano Rossignoli,
University of Pisa

The presentation introduced the following questions:

- Social sustainability is quite often a major goal for development, but how can it be better achieved?
- Social farming often already exists – how can it be identified and recognized?
- How could local social farming initiatives be analysed and studied in order to capture the main lessons?
- Local authorities use and provide access to some welfare tools and resources – could these be better targeted and used more efficiently by promoting social farming?

Social farming involves a large number of diverse actors, new concepts and attitudes. As such, the promotion of social farming at the farm and regional level is a process of territorial development, transition and transition management.

In order to develop a country-wide social farming strategy, high levels of engagement are required of all actors, including policy-makers. To promote social farming at the country level, the following pathway is suggested:

1. Establishing contact with selected FAO Representation;
2. Analysis of the national health, social and employment policies, and legal frameworks and programme, with special focus on those vulnerable groups who are often users of social farming (context analysis & stakeholder analysis);
3. Rapid Social Farming Appraisal (RSFA) to identify social farming practices in the country;
4. Explorative meeting with national stakeholders to present the result of the context analysis and the RSFA, and to assess the level of interest and potential engagement (also financial engagement) in a nation-wide social farming strategy;
5. Consultation with relevant local stakeholders and initial attempt to establish a Transition Arena (TA) on social farming to promote actions for identifying and supporting pilot social farming initiatives;
6. Identification and in-depth analysis of support of/ to selected (pilot) social farming experiences;
7. Support for the creation of ad hoc Local TAs;
8. Support for the development of policy and actions to support social farming at the country level;
9. Support for the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework to track and assess the effectiveness of identified actions and policies.

FAO needs to secure adequate financial resources in order to have the financial capacity to implement the country-level programme. The mobilization effort will be targeted at institutional funding bodies such as the EU and national development agencies, as well as at private foundations which have an interest and expertise in social farming or related fields.

**Establishing contact with selected
FAO Representation**

It is necessary to identify human resources to support the project on the ground. FAO Country Representatives are a first point of contact and will be instrumental in securing local support. To this end it is necessary to produce an **information brief** and a **letter** to explain the basic concepts and needs of social farming. Once a local consultant has been selected with the help of Country Representatives, FAO should provide guidance and supportive tools, including:

- A contact desk;
- A repository of documents;
- Distance training activities including tools for meeting facilitation, and uniform guidance on organizing preparatory meetings.

Context and stakeholder analysis

It is necessary to carry out a context and framework analysis on the health and social system with a special focus on employment opportunities of the most vulnerable people, their social inclusion levels, and unpaid care work in the country. To this end, the local consultant should produce a report including an overview of the existing problems and policy responses in order to trace the current outcomes and potential demand for innovation. A stakeholder analysis is also necessary highlighting all the interested parties and actors.

Rapid Social Farming Appraisal (RSFA)

Rapid rural appraisal techniques should be used to identify social farming practices and prepare a report on the result of the appraisal. The methodologies and tools required include, but are not limited to:

- questionnaire for case selection
- field visit activities
- photo reporting

Explorative country meeting

The meeting should involve all relevant country-level stakeholders, with the objective of exploring the interest of the country in supporting the development of social farming. The results of the context, framework and stakeholders' analysis, as well as those of the RSFA, should be presented. The desired outcome of the meeting is to draft and approve a Letter of Intent which defines the priority areas and categories of users to be targeted by social farming (i.e. areas: women's empowerment, decent rural employment,

social inclusion and social protection; kind of users: women, youth, children, the elderly, ex-prisoners, ex-combatants, persons with physical or intellectual disabilities, etc.).

**Establishment of a first National Transition
Arena on social farming**

The consultation with relevant local stakeholders should also lead to establishing a forum or National Transition Arena, composed of committed national stakeholders, to promote actions that can identify and support pilot social farming initiatives.

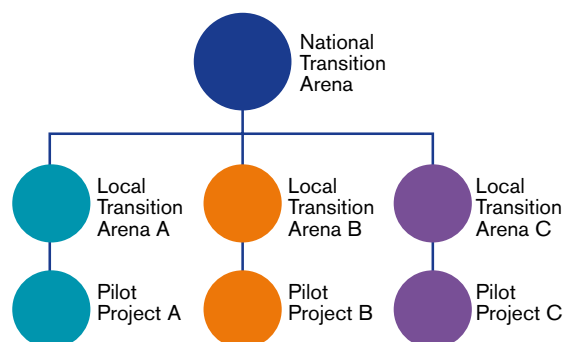
**Identification and in-depth analysis of
support of/to selected (pilot) social farming
experiences**

This tool should facilitate the process in the identification phase by evaluating whether initiatives that share the characteristics of social farming can be defined as social farming, keeping in mind its innovative character, multifunctionality, and ability to create unusual coalitions of stakeholders. Under the guidance of FAO, identified social farming initiatives will need to be further explored and understood to define their operational and regulatory framework (who does what, where, when, how, and why). At the end of this phase, the desired outcome will be the selection of two or more social farming pilot projects, for which an operational framework and timeline will then be set.

**Creation of ad hoc Local Transition
Arenas (TAs)**

For each area where a pilot social farming initiative is to take place, a Local Transition Arena (TA) will be set up. The objective of the TAs is to enable public

**National and Local Transition Arenas (TAs):
building common knowledge**



and private local stakeholders to participate in the promotion and analysis of local initiatives of social farming (under FAO guidance). It is the aim of TAs to better understand the local context and define specific actions and objectives for each of the Pilot Projects. The TAs should also reflect on the needs and constraints of the Pilot Project and transmit them to the National Transition Arena.

Development of policy and actions to support social farming at the country level

With the support of FAO and other involved partners, the National TA will elaborate a toolkit for promoting and supporting the development of social farming initiatives in the country. This should include specific actions for the support of social farming.

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

Monitoring and evaluation will need to be planned from the onset in order to verify and understand the effects and impacts of the implemented actions and policy developed on social farming initiatives at the country level. Its main objective will be to provide feedback to the National TA to readjust the supporting actions developed. In particular, it will ask and answer the following questions: What are the effects and impacts of the actions and policies implemented for the support of social farming in the country? What are the necessary adjustments of the actions and policies implemented to reorient the support of social farming in the country?

3.2 GROUP WORK – WORLD CAFÉ

The last part of the workshop was a World Café where participants formed groups and worked on assigned questions. The questions aimed at stimulating discussion around four main arguments, namely i) how to enable social farming practices to emerge; ii) how existing social farming initiatives can be supported; iii) what policies and alliances can be developed in order to inform and engage the policy-makers; and iv) what existing initiatives could be linked to social farming practices.

- **Question 1** How to enable existing social farming initiatives to emerge? How to better explore the potential of (and obstacles to) existing projects?
Group rapporteur **Saverio Senni & Paola Tamma**

- **Question 2** How can existing social farming initiatives be better supported?
Group rapporteur **Cristiano Rossignoli**
- **Question 3** How to influence national policies for supportive interventions for social farming? What kind of alliances should be built?
Group rapporteur **Martina Sabbadini**
- **Question 4** What are the existing initiatives of local development to which the social farming concept can be linked?
Group rapporteur **Hajnalka Petrics**



Question 1: How to enable existing social farming initiatives to emerge? How to better explore the potential of (and obstacles to) existing projects?

1. General issues:
 - The general discussion focused on the need to conduct a context analysis at the country level as part of a field programme implementation project (what kind of farming systems are in place, what vulnerable stakeholder groups exist – also with the aim of verifying overlap and synergies among them) in order to detect existing social farming initiatives or fertile ground for their development. Such analysis should be run by local actors and take into account projects run by farmers, NGOs, governmental projects and community-based initiatives, as well as their possible links.
 - Social farming experiences might be very different and very complex; could all this heterogeneity be a problem? There is the need to respect this diversity, but it could also limit the exploration of common pathways.
 - The awareness about local initiatives can give way to a process of institutionalization or scaling up and transfer, the first two often being dangerous for the future of local initiatives (e.g.

the creation of regulatory mechanisms could limit other non-formal institutions, such as trust-based relationships).

2. Regarding the question on how to enable existing social farming initiatives to emerge, group members identified the following actions as useful:
 - Promote stakeholder analysis (both at the country and local level), and map and recognize the relevant actors involved or influenced;
 - Establish networks, circulate information, and collect locally relevant information and knowledge to introduce into a broader network of exchange;
 - Promote the actors involved in social farming initiatives as spokesmen, using communication tools like radio;
 - Incorporate existing social farming initiatives in ongoing programmes for socially vulnerable groups in order to better spread the social farming concept and activities; and
 - Promote campaigns with development actors to help them see the social farming concept as actively contributing to environmental, social and economic development.

3. Regarding the second part of the question, on how to better explore the potential of (and obstacles to) existing projects, the discussion focused on the following elements:
 - There is a need to better understand the farm type involved in social farming initiatives (projects vs community-based initiatives).
 - To cope with obstacles, the suitability of the local farming system with the social farming initiatives should be addressed.
 - There is a need to explore the understanding of different actors involved and the possible outcomes from social farming initiatives (savings on public expenditure, efficacy, income/food generation).
 - There is a need for training to raise awareness and to create (or better use) already existing platforms to introduce the topic of social farming.
 - It is important to facilitate and support more evaluation in order to produce clear scientific evidence on which benefits of social farming to circulate at seminars, communication campaigns, etc.
 - The snowball method can be used to compile social farming practices.



Question 2: How can existing social farming initiatives be better supported?

The discussion in this group evolved around three main themes: i) how to identify social farming actors; ii) how to collect evidence on the different aspects of social farming; and iii) what can be done to give improved visibility to social farming initiatives.

1. Identification of actors:
 - For each social farming initiative a stakeholder analysis is needed to map actors involved (analysing their needs and understanding their power or influence in the process and their level of action). Some key questions are: Who are the main stakeholders, what are their needs, and what is their power? Different stakeholders have different interests and expectations, and this will determine how to engage them. At the same time, understanding their level of power and influence could uncover the most vulnerable actors and explore ways to empower them.
 - It is important to understand well the role of diverse stakeholders (civil society, citizens, consumers, local authorities at the micro/meso/macro level, private sector, etc.), to improve the knowledge about social farming initiatives at the local level and then transfer it to the regional and national level. It is crucial to understand if actors have formed alliances, or are willing to do so to avoid a fragmented representation of the theme at the national level and conflict of interest among the different social farming representatives.
 - There is a need to uncover and expose power relationships. Attention must be paid to both powerless and powerful actors. The following question should be addressed: How could social farming contribute to changing these power relationships?
 - By learning from social farming experiences in other countries, we can understand the uneven

power balances from the onset and try to avoid them whenever possible.

2. Collecting evidence:

- Identify pilot projects and carry out case studies of good practices which can be used as examples to highlight the various aspects of social farming, such as effectiveness; economic, social, health and cultural benefits; and benefits for farmers.

3. Improving visibility:

- through interaction with media and creation of alliances;
- through the creation of a certification scheme signalling the ethical value of the produce farmed through social farming initiatives (e.g. "made with care", "made inclusively");
- through organization of seminars and public pilot initiatives.



Question 3: How to influence national policies for supportive interventions for social farming? What kind of alliances should be built?

At the beginning of the discussion, group members agreed that

- Social farming is attracting the interest of policy-makers and governments, as it affects many different domains;
- Social farming promotes a better use of public spending;
- Data showing the savings in public expenditures (e.g. through a cost-benefit analysis) can be an important means in convincing policy-makers.

1. Ensure that the concept of social farming is clear to all stakeholders:

- It is important to demonstrate evidence of social

farming benefits to promote well-informed decisions; however, scarce data is a limitation.

- Universities and research centres should prepare more case studies on how social farming works and on its effectiveness (including its cost-effectiveness).

2. Organize actors, networks and communication channels:

- by promoting the establishment of working groups at the national level;
- by building a broad network with global experiences that shows social farming as a possible form of social innovation.

3. Communicate effectively by

- defining a common language of communication with the media, as well as utilizing the right media, messages and tools according to specific targets in order to increase public interest and support for social farming;
- having a clear agenda and strategy for convincing and catching the interest of policy-makers;
- creating consensus about the social and health values derived from social farming practices.

4. Promote new concepts and ways of doing by

- establishing links between the economic and social agenda (social development agenda);
- establishing linkages to the corporate social responsibility programmes of private companies.



Question 4: What are the existing initiatives of local development to which the social farming concept can be linked?

1. As for the content and the target groups of development interventions, the social farming concept can be linked to

- Vocational schools on farming and social farming in school programmes in collaboration

with a network of local actors and education authorities;

- School orientation programmes and support programmes for dropouts;
- Community-Led Local Development projects;
- Conservation programmes: working together with other programmes and areas, for example promoting quality labels for food products in cooperation with protected areas;
- Programmes that focus on orphans and vulnerable children;
- Employment programmes;
- Initiatives with the objective of gender equality and care work redistribution;
- Social and solidarity projects;
- Programmes for mitigating the social impact on people living with HIV/AIDS;
- Food security programmes.

2. At the international level, links can be found with the following initiatives:

- EU funds 2014/20 cohesion policy, strategic support planning and financing;
- ILO local development programmes;
- FAO peri-urban agricultural programmes;
- FAO Farmer Field Schools and Farmer Field and Life Schools (FFS & FFLS);
- UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy;
- *Gestions de terroir* approach (diverse funds).

SUMMARY OF THE WORKING GROUP EXERCISE

The results of the four working groups can be organized in the following way, taking into consideration overlap and continuity of the options proposed.

Scale of analysis

There is a clear need to collect more evidence and increase understanding of social farming initiatives at an international scale, as well as to have a more in-depth context analysis using pilot countries as a starting point. At the national level, pilot countries could be selected to define and apply a specific methodology that goes much further in-depth in the analysis and in the definition of pathways and methodologies to improve the application of the concept, especially within ongoing activities.

Type of action

On a global scale, specific efforts should aim to link the social farming concept with existing international projects and activities (see the list of activities presented under Working Group 4, point 2). Also, the organization of a communications campaign focusing on international NGOs working in developing countries might reach a greater audience able to plan social farming interventions. The organization of the international platform could provide and feed information and evidence in this respect.

At the country level, there is a need for:

- Implementation of specific methods like stakeholder analysis and context analysis in order to map and better understand existing forces, actors and social farming practices active in the field;
- A scouting and mapping exercise to explore cases of social farming and gather useful evidence;
- In-depth study of the existing case/pilot initiatives in order to accumulate scientific and codified knowledge about the application of the social farming concept in specific contexts;
- Establishment of national and local networks and arenas able to share and create common knowledge around the concept, and to generate interest in the concept as well;
- A communication strategy/plan focusing on coherent media targets and messages;
- Promotion of plans, initiatives, and incentives able to orient local projects in a community, to lead local development, and to facilitate horizontal transfer of knowledge with the support of national joint initiatives;
- Targeting the political environment (after reinforcing local community-based initiatives) in order to reinforce discussion and tools;
- Organization of a more in-depth, country-level effort, which should feed the global environment in a circular way, facilitating new actions at such a scale.

WAY FORWARD

The meeting held on 15 December 2014 that originated this report was useful in sharing and consolidating knowledge about social farming as a concept and an innovative practice, as well as pointing to specific action points. We summarize below both the most relevant messages that participants highlighted from the workshop and the concrete action points shaping FAO's way forward on social farming.

Social farming can be viewed as an alternative form of service provision in rural areas for care, social inclusion and skills development. It is innovative in that it mobilizes and reorganizes local resources in order to provide health and social services to rural populations. The driving principles of social farming are civic economy, co-production and subsidiarity. It links together many different sectors and actors, has manifold benefits both for the users and the providers, and as such has great potential to contribute to economic, social and environmental sustainability in rural areas where it is implemented. Because of the ubiquity of social and health needs and of agriculture, if appropriately adapted to local contexts social farming has the potential to drive local and sustainable change.

Social farming can contribute to achieving FAO's objectives and priority areas by strengthening communities, improving social inclusion and rural women's economic empowerment, diminishing care burdens, and offering opportunities for decent employment. For these reasons, FAO embraces the concept of social farming and actively seeks to build momentum and drive the action forward in numerous ways. During the workshop concrete ideas were put forward on how social farming can be linked to women's empowerment, employment and social protection programmes, as listed below:

RESEARCH

It was recognized that new research and rigorous evaluations, both qualitative and quantitative, are needed to support the case of social farming. Also, given the highly local character of social farming initiatives, there is a need for better understanding and clarity about how it works in diverse countries, including the context and what the motivation is for supporting and engaging in social farming. Concrete propositions included a global platform to enable a snowball exercise for collection of data and facilitating the exchange of knowledge. A first step was taken by initiating an open online consultation on social farming that constituted the preparatory work for the concept paper and the current workshop. This could be enhanced by inviting more participants into the exchange and providing a permanent repository for the documents and research generated.

INTEGRATING SOCIAL FARMING WITH EXISTING PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES

At a regional level, social farming pilot projects could be included in the programme of FAO's regional initiatives, generating savings and ensuring higher coherence within local contexts. Regional initiatives offer in-depth knowledge about local contexts and could be instrumental in the first phases of context analysis and pilot case selection.

Working Group 4 (point 2) produced a list of existing experiences and initiatives of FAO and other international institutions that could provide local support for pilot social farming initiatives.

MULTIFUNCTIONAL AND MULTI-STAKEHOLDER APPEAL

Because social farming is multifaceted, it not only requires a large coalition of expertise and stakeholders to be successful, but it also delivers multiple heterogeneous outcomes – social, economic, and environmental. Following from this, workshop participants recognized the high potential of introducing the concept at FAO level at the intersection of diverse departments/activities. As an innovative model, not only is social farming able to mobilize existing resources but it can also benefit multiple stakeholders in various ways, appealing to different interest groups. For instance, it could be useful to explore the possible cooperation between school feeding and public procurement programmes.

PARTNERING WITH KEY INSTITUTIONS TO BUILD MOMENTUM ON SOCIAL FARMING

Other institutions also have a role to play in bringing the social farming concept to the attention of policy-makers. Recognizing this, Roman Haken (of the European Economic and Social Committee) offered to host a European event in such respect. Participants also stressed the networking role of local institutions, which can provide a basis for arguing in favour of national social farming strategies. Finally, FAO will actively seek ways to continue this conversation and initiate the operational phase described in section 3.1. To this end it will select and make contact with potential partners, both locally in selected countries and internationally, to move the social farming concept forward and realize its recognized potential.

ANNEX 1

AGENDA: TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF SOCIAL FARMING FOR RURAL POVERTY REDUCTION

15 December 2014, Rome, Italy

08.30-08.45 Arrival and registration of participants

SESSION 1 LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS: WHAT IS SOCIAL FARMING?

09.00-09.15 Welcome and opening remarks
Rob Vos, Strategic Programme 3 Coordinator, Social Protection Division, FAO

09.15-09.30 Introduction of the participants

09.30-09.40
Presentation of the workshop objectives and agenda
Hajnalka Petrics, FAO

09.40-10.10
Presentation of the background concept paper
Francesco Di Iacovo and Cristiano Rossignoli,
University of Pisa
Hajnalka Petrics, FAO

10.10-10.25 Discussion

10.25-10.40
Presentation of social farming experiences from Europe
– The case of the Turin Network
Martina Sabbadini, UECoop/Coldiretti Turin

10.40-10.55
Presentation of social farming experiences from the
United Republic of Tanzania – The Inuka project
Michelangelo Chirchiu, CESC-Project

10.55-11.10
Presentation of social farming experiences from
Latin America – The case of the Granja Tarapaca
Gunnar Mordhorst, Granja Tarapaca, Cali, Colombia

11.10-11.25 Discussion
Moderator: Brave Ndisale, Deputy Director, ESP

11.25-11.40 Break

SESSION 2 LINKING SOCIAL FARMING TO SPECIFIC RURAL POVERTY REDUCTION APPROACHES AND TOOLS

11.40-11.55
Social farming and social and solidarity economy
Marie-Adelaide Mathei, UNRISD

11.55-12.10
Social farming and women's economic empowerment
through the reduction of unpaid care work
Carine Pionetti, representing Oxfam International

12.10-12.25
Social farming and decent rural employment and
social protection
Carla Henry, ILO

12.25-12.55 Discussion

12.55-14.00 Lunch

SESSION 3 MOVING FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE: ELEMENTS OF AN OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME TO SUPPORT SOCIAL FARMING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

14.00-14.15
Presentation of the group work objectives and methods
Hajnalka Petrics, FAO

14.15-14.30
Presentation of a possible pathway to support social
farming in developing countries
Francesco Di Iacovo, University of Pisa

14.30-15.45 Group work – World Café
(coffee served during the session)

15.45-16.45
Discussion of the group work results and planning
of future actions
Rapporteurs of the groups; Moderator:
Francesco Di Iacovo, University of Pisa

16.45-17.00 Wrap up and closing of the workshop

ANNEX 2

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

EXTERNAL PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX 3

SHORT BIOS



Rob Vos is the Coordinator of the Strategic Programme for Rural Poverty Reduction of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Previously he was Director of Development Policy and Analysis in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), New York, Secretary of the UN Committee for Development Policy and coordinator of the UN Secretary-General's Millennium Development Goals' Gap Task Force and UN Task Team for the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda. Rob Vos is also (honorary) Professor of Finance and Development at the International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University. His most recent (co-authored) book publications include *Ageing and Development* (Orient Longman/Zed books, 2008), *Uneven Economic Development* (Orient Longman/Zed books, 2008) and *Development Strategies for the Post-2015 Era* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2014). He holds a Ph.D. and an M.Sc. with honours in Economics from the Free University of Amsterdam, Netherlands.

of issues in the areas of biotechnology and biosafety, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations. She holds a Ph.D. in Agriculture and Applied Economics from the University of Minnesota and was awarded the African Graduate Fellowship (AFGRAD) for her Ph.D. programme.



Hajnalka Petrics is a Gender and Development Officer in FAO's Social Protection Division. Previously she was a Rural Development and Gender Technical Officer in FAO's Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia. She works for the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women in the context of rural development, food security and poverty reduction, and leads the work programme on social farming under FAO's Strategic Programme 3. Between 2008 and 2010 she represented Hungary in the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) 866 Action Project on Green Care. Hajnalka holds a Bachelor in Economics from the Budapest Business School and University of Applied Sciences, a Master's in Political Science and a Ph.D. in International Cooperation and Sustainable Development Policies from the University of Bologna.

Brave Ndisale joined FAO in July 2014. Before taking up the position of Deputy Director in the Social Protection Division, she had been Ambassador of Malawi to Belgium, France, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy, Switzerland, the Principality of Monaco and the European Union since 2008. She previously held senior positions in government and international organizations, including the African Union Commission, in a variety of areas including policy and planning. She is well versed in the areas of trade, market systems and land tenure and is familiar with a broad range



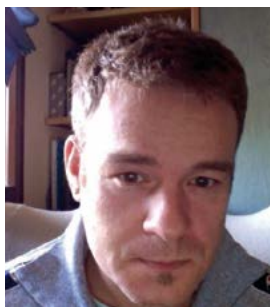
Francesco Di Iacovo is Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics at the Department of Veterinary Science, University of Pisa, where he is responsible also for international affairs. Previously he was vice director of the Interdepartmental Centre for Agro-Environmental Research. From 2006 to 2009 he coordinated the SoFar project (social services in multifunctional farms) funded by the EU VI Framework



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programme for research and innovation, aimed at supporting EU policies in multifunctional use of agriculture related to human health. He is a member of the Foodlinks project of the EU VII Framework programme, which aims to promote sustainable food consumption and production. He was a national delegate in the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) 866 Action Project on Green Care. His research focus is on social development in rural areas, social farming, and social sustainability. He uses action research methodologies and is involved in local, regional, national and international activities on social farming.



Cristiano Rossignoli is a Ph.D. candidate in Agricultural Economics and Rural Development at the University of Pisa. His research focus is on exploring the role of livestock in vulnerable societies, the socio-economic effects of animal

health programmes, and social farming. He has experience in international development and humanitarian aid in Southeast Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East where he worked as a consultant, evaluator and project manager for different NGOs and INGOs such as Oxfam.



Roman Haken has been a member of the European Economic and Social Committee since 21 September 2006. He also collaborates with the Centre for Community Organizing Central Moravia (Czech Republic) and Charles University. He

is supporting the Partnership principle between sectors and participative democracy. He is active in the field of social economy and in environmental projects. He is interested in strategic planning with the involvement of citizens and citizens' organizations, the LEADER programme, Community-Led Local Development, Code of Conduct on Partnership, and public participation in decision-making processes. At the Czech Ministry of Agriculture he organized the working group in support of social farming.



Since 2001, **Martina Sabadini** has been collaborating with Italian authorities, trade organizations, and other institutions to organize and manage complex partnerships at the local, national, and international level. She has experience in

equal opportunity between women and men, social and labour inclusion of women victims of sex trafficking, social inclusion of migrants, and domestic violence reporting. In 2009, she coordinated two European projects on the prevention of trafficking and exploitation of children while she was working for Save the Children Italy. Since 2010 she has developed her interest in social farming, and in 2011 she co-founded the social cooperative Cavoli Nostri that functions both as a normal business and as a lab for social farming and innovation.



Michelangelo Chiurchiù has worked in the social and sociomedical field since 1979. He is currently president of the CESC-Project. He was an executive of the "Capodarco of Rome" Community as the head of the Centre of Rehabilitation

and as the Director of Training School for health educators and social workers. He was also president of FOAI – the National Federation of Rehabilitation Centres. Since 1989 he has worked with the International Cooperation in various countries, for example in Ecuador for a project on social inclusion and employment of persons with disabilities, and in the United Republic of Tanzania, Cameroon, Congo and Nigeria.



Gunnar Mordhorst is an Agricultural Engineer specializing in organic farming. He has experience in working with rural communities, environmental agencies, agricultural companies, and educational organizations. He works for the Granja

Tarapaca in Colombia.



Ms Carla Henry joined the ILO in 2002 to strengthen organizational capacities and practices related to strategic management. In 2005, she technically led the establishment of an independent evaluation function and subsequent-

ly assessed major components of the ILO's technical programming, budgeting, and performance reporting. Since 2014, she has been the ILO senior specialist for agriculture and related sectors. Prior to joining the ILO she worked as an agricultural economist for the US Department of Agriculture, as a research consultant on rural development, and as a practitioner based longer-term in several African countries. She holds an M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics and an MBA in Strategic Management.



Marie-Adélaïde Matheï is Research Analyst at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD). She is working on social and solidarity economy (SSE). She joined UNRISD to help with the organization of a large-

scale conference on SSE which took place back in May 2013. Since then, she has been researching and working on a range of publications on SSE, and specifically on solidarity finance. She participated in the creation of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy and assisted the former Deputy Director of UNRISD with the coordination of the secretariat of the Task Force during its first year of existence.



Dr Carine Pionetti is an anthropologist with research background in Gender and Political Ecology. For ten years she has worked as a research consultant in international development, supporting teams on gender-sensitive

participatory research on women in agriculture in West and East Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Europe.



Lorenzo Paoli has 11 years of experience in institutional fundraising, identification, formulation and managing development programmes in low- and middle-income countries (e.g. South Eastern Europe region). Since 2013, he has

been part of the Partnership and Programme Policy Office of Oxfam Italia with a specific focus on local governance and decentralization. He is an agronomist and co-author of publications on participatory rural appraisal and territorial cooperation.

ANNEX 4

LIST OF PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

TYPE OF PARTICIPANTS

UN Organizations

- International Labour Organization
- UNRISD
- FAO

European Institutions

- European Economic and Social Committee

International NGOs

- Oxfam International
- Oxfam Italia

Social farms

- Colombia
- Italy
- United Republic of Tanzania

Non-profit organizations

- CESC-Project
- COSPE
- ORISS
- AiCARE

Cooperatives

- UECoop Turin

Farmers' organizations

- Coldiretti
- Confederation Paysanne

Universities

- University of Pisa
- University of Tuscia
- University Carlos III, Madrid
- University of Edinburgh



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