



THE MEDITERRANEAN CARAVAN:
LEARNING AND SHARING AGROECOLOGY
GLOSSARY

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GLOSSARY



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The Medcaravan - The Mediterranean Caravan: Learning and Sharing Agroecology glossary defines in alphabetical order the keywords used in the Best Guide to Collect Agroecological Knowledge (IO1) and the educational program Learning on MedAgroecology (IO3). Attached to each keyword are the references that support their definition.

The glossary begins with the definition of agroecology co-constructed by the Medcaravan team.

Our common Agroecology definition:

Agroecology is a bottom-up approach - in constant evolution - built on ecological principles, that merges sustainable agricultural practices and social movements, based on the co-creation of knowledge, supported by science and policy, rather than led by them. It seeks just and sovereign food systems. Agroecology leads to innovation and promotes cooperation between producers, civil society, researchers and institutions - stating co-knowledge as a common good. It enhances the autonomy and adaptive capacity of producers and communities, through participatory approaches, empowering them as key agents of change. It acknowledges the rights of rural communities as a whole, promoting intergenerational relationships: focusing on vulnerable and historically discriminated groups, such as women and migrants and indigenous peoples, valuing diversity, respecting their sustainable traditions and customs. Agroecology addresses the root causes of problems concerning the sustainability of food systems in an integrated way, providing holistic and long-term solutions.

It aims at ecological, cultural and economic resilience of territories creating sustainable and resilient models for agroecosystems and agri-food systems. Agroecology allows the production of a complex variety of goods and diversifies income opportunities while it improves the environment and minimizes external input needs. Agroecology can help to contain the onset of diseases such as Covid-19, related to intensive farming and the destruction of natural habitats caused by industrial agriculture thus contributing to mitigate climate change.

Our common vision/principles:

Agronomic and Ecosystem Services related principles:

- Ensuring a holistic perspective in line with ecosystem services to prevail in all stages of production and consumption;
- Reducing environmental pollution from synthetic substances enhancing the role of farm and local “waste”, and the importance of closing cycles;
- Promoting efficient water management and stimulating local agroecosystems (e.g. agroforestry, biodynamic, permaculture);
- Ensuring sustainability of plant and animal species in order to sustain biodiversity guaranteeing that they are respected;
- Promoting pesticide-free practices to sustain a healthy vitality that includes humans, animals, seeds, plants and microorganisms;
- Protecting and enhancing genetic diversity of crops and animal breeds, especially traditional breeds and varieties (plants and animals);
- Enhancing soil fertility and restoration and limiting soil erosion and depletion;

Social Principles:

- Strengthening social structures, mutual aid and local system of knowledge exchange;
- Promoting ethical and conscious consumer attitudes supporting short and local food supply chains as well as solidarity economy models;
- Promoting nature friendly small scale and family farming;
- Enhancing the sustainable knowledge of producers, valuing their stories, customs and beliefs;
- Advocating for fair and just policies that can ensure the sustainability of agri-food systems at different scales (local, regional, national, European)



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Agrobiodiversity - Agrobiodiversity is the result of the interaction between the environment, genetic resources and management systems and practices used by culturally diverse peoples, and therefore land and water resources are used for production in different ways. Thus, agrobiodiversity encompasses the variety and variability of animals, plants and micro-organisms that are necessary for sustaining key functions of the agro-ecosystem, including its structure and processes for, and in support of, food production and food security. Local knowledge and culture can therefore be considered as integral parts of agrobiodiversity, because it is the human activity of agriculture that shapes and conserves this biodiversity.¹

Agroecosystems - Agroecosystems are created by people through the manipulation and alteration of ecosystems with the purpose of producing fibers, fuel and other products for human consumption and transformation. These activities cause several changes to the natural ecosystem structure and function.²

Agroforestry - Agroforestry combines different types of trees and bushes with agricultural/horticultural crops, and/or livestock and wildlife in the same area. Besides providing tree products and crops they also protect, conserve, diversify and sustain vital economic, environmental, human and natural resources. Its difference from agriculture and traditional forestry is being based on a systemic approach where the focus is on the interactions between system components rather than the individual components themselves.³



¹ What is agrobiodiversity, FAO: <https://www.fao.org/3/y5609e/y5609e01.htm>

² GLIESSMAN, S.R., "Agroecology and Agroecosystems". *Agroecosystems Analysis*, vol. 43. Chapter 2, January 2004, *Wiley Online Library*, <https://access.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.2134/agronmonogr43.c2>

ALTIERI, M.A., NICHOLS, C.I., *Agroecology and the Search for a Truly Sustainable Agriculture*. 1st ed. Basic Textbooks for Environmental Training, University of California, Berkley. 2005, pp.9-11.

³ Agroforestry Trust (2021) What is Agroforestry? Available at: <https://www.agroforestry.co.uk/about-agroforestry/>

World Agroforestry (ICRAF) (2021) *What is Agroforestry?* Available at: <https://www.worldagroforestry.org/about/agroforestry>

Biodiversity - *Biological diversity* means the variability among living organisms from all sources including, *inter alia*, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part.⁴ This includes genetic and phenotypic diversity, intra and interspecies diversity, species richness, endemic species and ecosystem diversity.⁵

Biodynamic farming - Biodynamic farming is a holistic, ecological, and ethical approach to farming, gardening, food, and nutrition based on the work of philosopher Rudolf Steiner. Each farm and garden is approached as a living organism made of interdependent elements: field, forests, plants, animals, soils, compost and people. Farmers and gardeners nurture and manage all these elements in a holistic and dynamic way supporting the health and vitality of the whole.⁶

Climate change - Climate change refers to significant changes in global temperature, precipitation, wind patterns and other measures of climate that occur over several decades or longer. Climate change may be due to natural internal processes or external factors such as variations of the solar cycles, volcanic eruptions and persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in *land use*.⁷

Community Supported Agriculture - Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) or AMAP, in French *Association pour le Maintien d'une Agriculture Paysanne* (Association for the Maintenance Peasant Agriculture), it is a direct partnership based on the human relationship between people and one or several producer(s), whereby the risks, responsibilities and rewards of farming are shared, through a long-term, binding agreement.⁸



⁴ One Planet Network Sustainable Food Systems Programme, 2020, Towards a Common Understanding of Sustainable Food Systems: Key Approaches, Concepts and Terms, Biodiversity. P30.

⁵ Pimm, S. L. (2020, October 5). *Biodiversity*. *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/science/biodiversity>

⁶ Biodynamic Association (2021) *Biodynamic Principles and Practices*. Available at: <https://www.biodynamics.com/biodynamic-principles-and-practices>

⁷ What is climate change; United Nations: <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change#:~:text=Climate%20change%20refers%20to%20long,activity%20or%20large%20volcanic%20eruptions.>

⁸ Urgenci (2016) *European Community Supported Agriculture Network Declaration*. Available at: <https://urgenci.net/the-european-csa-declaration-adopted-in-ostava/>

Composting: Composting is the natural process of recycling organic matter, such as leaves and food scraps, into a valuable fertilizer that can enrich soil and plants. Anything that grows decomposes eventually; composting simply speeds up the process by providing an ideal environment for bacteria, fungi, and other decomposing organisms (such as worms, sowbugs, and nematodes) to do their work. The resulting decomposed matter, which often ends up looking like fertile garden soil, is called compost. Fondly referred to by farmers as “black gold,” compost is rich in nutrients and can be used for gardening, horticulture, and agriculture.⁹

Compost tea: Compost teas are liquid versions of the solid compost material. They contain soluble plant nutrients and a complex community of beneficial microorganisms. While there are an infinite number of ways to prepare compost teas, basically all teas begin by mixing compost in water in order to extract plant nutrients and microorganisms. Liquid teas can be applied as soil drenches, foliar sprays or incorporated into irrigation systems.¹⁰

Ecosystem: An ecosystem is a system consisting of biotic (living) and abiotic (non-living) components that function together as a unit. An ecosystem entails an ecological community consisting of different populations of organisms that live together in a particular habitat.¹¹

Ecosystem services – Ecosystem services are the benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include *provisioning services* such as food, water, shelter and resources for other activities such as construction, medicine or clothing; *regulating services* such as flood and disease control; *cultural services* such as spiritual, recreational, and cultural benefits; and *supporting services*, such as nutrient cycling, that maintain the conditions for life on Earth.¹²

Ecovillages: An ecovillage is an intentional, traditional or urban community that is consciously designed through locally owned participatory processes in all four dimensions of sustainability (social, culture, ecology and economy) to regenerate social and natural environments.¹³

⁹ What is composting, EPA, <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home#whatcom>

¹⁰ Compost tea: a how-to guide, Rodale Institute: https://rodaleinstitute-org.translate.goog/blog/compost-tea-a-how-to-guide/?x_tr_sl=en&x_tr_tl=it&x_tr_hl=it&x_tr_pto=sc

¹¹ Ecosystem, National Geographic: <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/ecosystem/>

¹² Millenium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005, *Ecosystems and Human Well-Being: A Framework for Assessment*, Millenium Ecosystem Assessment, United Nations. Available at: <https://www.millenniumassessment.org/documents/document.300.aspx.pdf>

¹³ What is an Ecovillage: <https://ecovillage.org/ecovillages/what-is-an-ecovillage/>

FAO: The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.¹⁴

Food justice: Refers to “the right to grow, sell, and eat [food that is] nutritious, affordable, culturally appropriate, and grown locally with care for the well-being of the land, workers, and animals.”¹⁵

Food Sovereignty - is a more holistic system than Food Security. It recognizes that control over the food system needs to remain in the hands of farmers, for whom farming is both a way of life and a means of producing food. It also recognizes the contribution of indigenous peoples, pastoralists, forest dwellers, workers and fishers to the food system. It ensures that food is produced in a socially and culturally acceptable manner and in harmony with the ecosystem in which it is produced. This is how traditional food production systems have regenerated their soils, water, biodiversity and climatic conditions, for generations.¹⁶

Hybrid food initiative - hybrid food initiative defines a food systems which has adopted certain elements and aspects from an alternative food systems, as agroecology, but still functions as a conventionally based systems in majority.

Recycling and Closing Cycles - Waste does not exist in natural ecosystems. By imitating natural ecosystems, agroecological practices support biological processes that drive the recycling of nutrients, biomass and water within production systems, thereby increasing resource-use efficiency and minimizing waste and pollution. Recycling can take place at both farm-scale and within landscapes, through diversification and building of synergies between different components and activities. Recycling delivers multiple benefits by closing cycles and reducing waste that translates into lower dependency on external resources, increasing the autonomy of producers and reducing their vulnerability to market and climate shocks.¹⁷



¹⁴ <https://www.fao.org/about/en/>

¹⁵ Food Justice: <https://www.bu.edu/csc/edref-2/what-is-food-justice/>

Alkon, A. H., & Agyeman, J. (Eds.). (2011). *Cultivating food justice: Race, class, and sustainability*. MIT press.

¹⁶ Food and Agriculture Organization FAO (2021), *Food Sovereignty Systems* available at: <http://www.fao.org/family-farming/detail/en/c/877809/>

¹⁷ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (2021) *Agroecology Knowledge Hub, Recycling: more recycling means agricultural production with lower economic and environmental costs*. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/agroecology/knowledge/10-elements/recycling/en/>

Genetically Engineered/Modified Organisms - Genetically engineered/modified organisms, and products thereof, are produced through techniques in which the genetic material has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by mating and/or natural recombination. Techniques of genetic engineering/ modification include, but are not limited to recombinant DNA, cell fusion, micro and macro injection, encapsulation, gene deletion and doubling. Genetically engineered organisms will not include organisms resulting from techniques such as conjugation, transduction and hybridization.¹⁸

Governance: By governance, we refer to the dynamics of power, relationships, responsibility and accountability. It is the set of political, social, economic and administrative systems, rules and processes that determine the way decisions are taken and implemented by actors from individuals to institutions and through which decision-makers are held accountable.¹⁹

Holistic approach (of the agroecosystems): is the integration of non-production dimensions, including the social dimension such as the analysis of farmers' attitudes and practices, and the environmental dimension (natural resources regeneration and biodiversity preservation).²⁰

Holistic Management: Holistic management provides a framework for decision-making - rooted in the fundamentals of ecosystem processes – and with a suite of planning procedures that include planned grazing, land planning, financial planning, and ecological monitoring. All together, Holistic Management equips us to understand the “whole” we are managing (not controlling) and make decisions that bring forth abundant outcomes, regenerating life for all involved.²¹



¹⁸ One Planet Network Sustainable Food Systems Programme, 2020, Towards a Common Understanding of Sustainable Food Systems: Key Approaches, Concepts and Terms, Genetically Engineered/Modified Organisms. p44.

¹⁹ Anderson, C., Bruil, J., Chapell, M.J., Kiss, C., Pimbert, M.P. (2021). *Agroecology Now! Transformations Towards More Just and Sustainable Food Systems. Origins, Benefits and the Political Basis of Agroecology*. Palgrave MacMillan. p17. Available at: <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007%2F978-3-030-61315-0>

²⁰ Wezel, A., Bellon, S., Doré, T., Francis, C., Vallod, D., & David, C. (2009). *Agroecology as a science, a movement and a practice. A review. Agronomy for Sustainable Development*, 29(4), 503–515. doi:10.1051/agro/2009004

²¹ Savory Global (2023) *Managing the Complexities of Land & Livestock: What is Holistic Management?* Available at: <https://savory.global/holistic-management/>

Intensive agriculture/Industrialized agriculture - Is a system of cultivation focused on production increase by using substantial amounts of inputs and mechanization through all stages of production to obtain maximum profitability. These types of agricultural systems are characterized by using machinery for planting, cultivating, and harvesting combined with large amounts of inputs such as fertilizer, pesticides, fungicides, and herbicides to growing crops. It is most common for intensive agriculture to be based on monocultures (one single crop) destined for large retailer distribution and exportation.²²

Local Solidarity Based Partnerships for Agroecology - A concept coined by the participants of the first URGENCI symposia in 2004 and 2005, that expresses a set of key common values: 1) local: to build a close and trusting relationship between the producer(s) and the “eaters” - frequent face-to-face encounters that require geographical proximity; 2) solidarity-based: to support producers from the same area; 3) partnership: food activists forge a new type of alliance between producers and the people they feed; 4) for Agroecology: a partnership relies on a mutual relationship, where the main counterpart for the consumers’ support is the producer’s commitment to agroecological principles.²³

Long food supply chain - is the dominant food supply system controlled by the food corporations and food retailers. Long food supply chain understands that food on supermarket shelves travels from all the parts of the world to reach those shelves creating a considerable CO2 emissions in transport, called “food miles”.

Monoculture farming: Monoculture farming is a form of agriculture that is based on growing only one type of a crop at one time on a specific field. In contrast, a polyculture system assumes that a field is sown with two or more crops at a time. It should be noted that the concept of monoculture does not only apply to crops, but to farm animals as well: it consists in breeding only one species of animals on a given farm, be it dairy cows, sheep, pigs, chicken, etc.²⁴



²² FAO. 2021. *Making climate-sensitive investments in agriculture – Approaches, tools and selected experiences*. Rome. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb1067en>

²³ Urgenci (2021) Enacting Resilience: the Response of Local Solidarity-based Partnerships for Agroecology to the Covid-19 Crisis. Available at: <https://urgenci.net/enacting-resilience-the-response-of-lspa-to-the-covid-19-crisis/>

²⁴ The rise and fall of monoculture farming; European Commission: <https://ec.europa.eu/research-and-innovation/en/horizon-magazine/rise-and-fall-monoculture-farming>

By growing just one crop species in a field at a time, monocultures enable farmers to use machinery, increasing the efficiency of activities like planting and harvesting. But despite supplying the lion's share of the world's food, monocultures are amongst the most controversial features of today's agriculture.

Nutrient cycle: Nutrient cycle is a system where energy and matter are transferred between living organisms and non-living parts of the environment. This occurs as animals and plants consume nutrients found in the soil, and these nutrients are then released back into the environment via death and decomposition.²⁵

Nitrogen cycle: The nitrogen cycle is a repeating cycle of processes during which nitrogen moves through both living and non-living things: the atmosphere, soil, water, plants, animals and bacteria. In order to move through the different parts of the cycle, nitrogen must change forms.²⁶

Organic Agriculture - Organic agriculture is a production management system created with the purpose of promoting and enhancing agro-ecosystem health, including biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil biological activity. It emphasizes the use of management practices in preference to the use of off-farm inputs, taking into account that regional conditions require locally adapted systems. This is accomplished by using, where possible, agronomic, biological, and mechanical methods, as opposed to using synthetic materials, to fulfill any specific function within the system.²⁷ However, current organic farming systems adopting the so-called input substitution approach remain intensive and highly specialized and not necessarily able to significantly improve their sustainability.²⁸



²⁵ Nutrient cycling: <https://mdocs.skidmore.edu/crandallparktrees/ecosystem/nutrient-cycling/#:~:text=The%20nutrient%20cycle%20is%20a,environment%20via%20death%20and%20decomposition.>

²⁶ What exactly is the Nitrogen cycle: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/369649871_NITROGEN_CYCLE_What_Exactly_Is_the_Nitrogen_Cycle_The_nitrogen_cycle_is_a_repeating_cycle_of_processes_during_which_nitrogen_moves_through_both_living_and_non-living_things_the_atmosphere_soil_water_p

²⁷ One Planet Network Sustainable Food Systems Programme, 2020, Towards a Common Understanding of Sustainable Food Systems: Key Approaches, Concepts and Terms, Organic Agriculture. p48.

²⁸ Rosati, A., Borek, R., & Canali, S. (2020). *Agroforestry and organic agriculture. Agroforestry Systems*. doi:10.1007/s10457-020-00559-6

Participatory Approaches - A participatory approach means that the person in charge of solving a problem or designing an innovation involves people who are directly concerned by the result of his or her work. Participatory approaches are necessary in agroecology as they facilitate the development of local resources, whether natural, economic or social ones. Joining local actors to the effort does not guarantee an optimal solution, but rather improvements which are acceptable and appropriate for their context of implementation. Problem solving and innovation are thus conducted directly with regards to the situation to be transformed. It therefore becomes possible to learn from the implementation of the found solutions in order to revise them.²⁹

Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) is an alternative system of food certification. In PGS, for example, experienced farmers and consumers can monitor other farmers if they apply the principles of organic agriculture, without having to refer to external certification houses.³⁰

Permaculture - Permaculture could be better described as a design system for resilient living and land use based on universal ethics and ecological design principles. Although the primary focus of permaculture has been the redesign of gardening, farming, animal husbandry and forestry, the same ethics and principles apply to design of buildings, tools and technology. Permaculture is also a global movement of individuals, groups and networks working to create the world we want, by providing for our needs and organising our lives in harmony with nature.³¹ Permaculture contributes to an applied form of ecological literacy (Orr 1992), supplying a popular and accessible synthesis of complex socio-ecological concepts. The design orientation of permaculture offers a distinctive perspective that suggests avenues of inquiry in agro-ecosystem research.³²

Prosumer: is an individual who both consumes and produces.³³

²⁹ Laurent Hazard, Elise Audouin. 2016. Participatory approach: Definition. Dictionnaire d'Agroecologie. Available at: <https://dicoagroecologie.fr/en/encyclopedia/participatory-approach/>

³⁰ Participatory guarantee systems, Ifoam: <https://www.ifoam.bio/our-work/how/standards-certification/participatory-guarantee-systems>

³¹ Holmgren Design (2023) *About Permaculture: What is Permaculture*. Available at: <https://holmgren.com.au/permaculture/about-permaculture/>

³² Ferguson, R.S., Lovell, S.T. Permaculture for agroecology: design, movement, practice, and worldview. A review. *Agron. Sustain. Dev.* 34, 251–274 (2014). Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13593-013-0181-6>

³³ Frameworks for developing an Agro-Prosumer Community Group platform: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8670369/>

Regenerative Agriculture - is a system of farming principles and practices that increases biodiversity, enriches soils, improves watersheds, and enhances ecosystem services. It aims to capture carbon in soil and aboveground biomass, reversing current global trends of atmospheric accumulation. At the same time, it offers increased yields, resilience to climate instability, and higher health and vitality for farming and ranching communities. The system draws from decades of scientific and applied research by the global communities of organic farming, agroecology, holistic management, and agroforestry.³⁴

Resilience: Resilience is the ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management.³⁵

The resilience of a farming system is defined as its capacity to re-establish its baseline functioning in the face of economic, social and environmental shocks and stresses. The resilience of a system can be of two kinds:

Specific resilience: either a one-off, sudden disruption

General or global resilience: a disturbance against which the system must cope over the long term.

Soil degradation: Soil degradation is defined as a change in the soil health status resulting in a diminished capacity of the ecosystem to provide goods and services for its beneficiaries. Degraded soils have a health status such, that they do not provide the normal goods and services of the particular soil in its ecosystem.³⁶

Soil degradation can be classified into four main types of degradation: water erosion, wind erosion, chemical deterioration and physical deterioration.

Soil management: Soil management is an integral part of land management and may focus on differences in soil types and soil characteristics to define specific interventions that are aimed to enhance the soil quality for the land use selected. Specific soil management practices are needed to protect and conserve the soil resources.³⁷

³⁴ One Planet Network Sustainable Food Systems Programme, 2020, Towards a Common Understanding of Sustainable Food Systems: Key Approaches, Concepts and Terms, Regenerative Agriculture. p52.

³⁵ Resilience: <https://www.undrr.org/terminology/resilience>

³⁶ Soil degradation, FAO: <https://www.fao.org/soils-portal/soil-degradation-restoration/en/>

³⁷ Soil management, FAO: <https://www.fao.org/soils-portal/soil-management/en/>

Social economy - The social economy is commonly understood as a “third sector” of the economy, complementing the “first sector” (private/profit-oriented) and the “second sector” (public/planned). The third sector includes cooperatives, mutuals, associations, and foundations (CMAFs). These entities are collectively organized and oriented around social aims that are prioritized above profits, or return to shareholders.³⁸

The solidarity economy - seeks to change the whole social and economic system and puts forth a different paradigm of development that upholds solidarity economy principles. It pursues the transformation of the neoliberal capitalist economic system from one that gives primacy to maximizing private profit and blind growth, to one that puts people and planet at its core. As an alternative economic system, the solidarity economy thus includes all three sectors private, public and the third sector.³⁹

Short and local food supply chains - Short food supply chains aim at re-connecting producers and consumers and re-localising agricultural and food production. They include on-farm direct sales, farmers markets and shops, delivery schemes and more formal partnerships between producers and consumers.⁴⁰ However, there isn't one definition of local food or short food supply, that is applicable to all production and distribution systems. This concept should be interpreted according to the contexts in which they are applied. However, when defining this concept there are different aspects that should be looked at: a) distance between production and sale and b) number of links in the food supply chain - reducing the number of intermediaries. Short food supply chains are beneficial for the environment as they can: i) contribute to reducing GHG emissions, ii) reduce food waste, iii) guarantee better prices for farmers (especially small-scale ones), iv) strengthen local economies, v) promote partnerships and solidarity between producers and consumers.⁴¹

³⁸ RIPESS, Global Vision for a Social Solidarity Economy: Convergences and Differences in concepts, Definitions and Frameworks

³⁹ RIPESS, Global Vision for a Social Solidarity Economy: Convergences and Differences in concepts, Definitions and Frameworks.

⁴⁰ Kneafsey M, Venn L, Schmutz U, Balasz B, Trenchard L, Eyden-Wood T, Bos E, Sutton G, Blackett M, authors Santini F, Gomez Y Paloma S, editors. Short Food Supply Chains and Local Food Systems in the EU. A State of Play of their Socio-Economic Characteristics. EUR 25911. Luxembourg (Luxembourg): Publications Office of the European Union; 2013. JRC80420
Available at: <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC80420>

⁴¹ PETERS, R., et. al, 2012. Introduction, Local Food and Short Food Supply Chains. EU Rural Review: A Publication from the European Network for Rural Development. N°12. Summer 2012. Available at: <https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/E8F24E08-0A45-F272-33FB-A6309E3AD601.pdf>

Solidarity economy - Solidarity Economy is characterized by concepts and practices based on relationships of solidarity and collaboration. It is inspired by cultural values that place people as the subject and purpose of an environmentally sustainable and socially fair economic activity that opposes the individual accumulation of capital. This practice of production, marketing, finance and consumption favours self-management, cooperation, community and human development, social justice and gender and race equality, It promotes equal access to information and knowledge, food security, the preservation of natural resources through sustainable management and responsibility towards generations, present and future, building a new form of social inclusion with the participation of all people.⁴²

Solidarity Purchasing Groups - are models applied in some countries, like in Italy in which consumers apply "conscious buying" principles and values by purchasing local products which are both environmentally friendly and economically fairly remunerated to the the producers.⁴³

Sustainability - Sustainability was defined by the United Nations as development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.⁴⁴

Sustainable Development - The United Nations (UN) defines sustainable development as development that ensures that the use of resources and the environment today does not compromise their use in the future. For sustainable development to be achieved, it is crucial to harmonize three core elements: economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection, all interconnected and pivotal for the well-being of individuals and societies.⁴⁵



⁴² Forum Brasileiro de Economia Solidária (2006) | *Conferência Nacional de Economia Solidária, Economia Solidária como Estratégia e Política de Desenvolvimento*, Brasília.

⁴³ Solidarity Purchasing groups, <https://antropocene.it/en/2023/05/02/solidarity-purchasing-group/>

⁴⁴ United Nations Brundtland Commission (1987) *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future*. Available at: <http://www.un-documents.net/our-common-future.pdf>

⁴⁵ United Nations (2021) United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, *Frequently Asked Questions: What is Sustainable Development?* Available at: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

Sustainable agricultural practices - Sustainable practices make the best use of existing conditions, adapting crops to climate, regenerating soil, and optimizing the synergies between all the living beings that make up the agricultural system. Therefore, sustainable agriculture reduces the use of external inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides saving energy and promoting sustainable use of resources. However, it isn't just a way of producing food with minimal environmental impact as it regards the social, economic, cultural and political dimensions of agriculture central to guaranteeing its sustainability.⁴⁶ A sustainable food system ensures food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate food security and nutrition of future generations are not compromised.⁴⁷

Territorial Approaches - A territorial approach applied to food systems would entail a collective planning process that considers all stages from food production to consumption occurring in a given territory. It would involve looking at food systems in a holistic, cross-sectoral manner, at the sub-national level (metropolitan, rural adjacent, and remote rural spaces) to develop strategies that can more sustainably develop the territory.⁴⁸



⁴⁶ One Planet Network Sustainable Food Systems Programme, 2020, Towards a Common Understanding of Sustainable Food Systems: Key Approaches, Concepts and Terms, Sustainable Agriculture. p55.

⁴⁷ One Planet Network Sustainable Food Systems Programme, 2020, Towards a Common Understanding of Sustainable Food Systems: Key Approaches, Concepts and Terms, Sustainable Food Systems. p58.

⁴⁸ One Planet Network Sustainable Food Systems Programme, 2020, Towards a Common Understanding of Sustainable Food Systems: Key Approaches, Concepts and Terms, Territorial Approaches. p63.

