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Multi-functional Model (MfM) for high natural farming in marginal areas

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The idea of the Multi-functional Model is born from researches on mountain farming carried out in the Aniene Valley, Simbruini chain, Italy.

Main target was to study new land use paradigms for both rainfed or watered farming systems in marginal areas.

Such models are planned to preserve local biodiversity by increasing the ecological connectedness of the rural areas. This can enforce the local ecological network.

In order to connect the ecological and the social components of any socioecological system, the recovery of sustainable rural practices is a primary functional target.

Our socioecological studies have clearly addressed a positive willingness by local communities to reanalyze and recover their own biodiversity resources.

Indeed, the proper perception of their own socioecological system empowers the community to re-join the environmental and the cultural values of the territory.

General rules to adopt good practices towards the sustainable development of rural marginal farming networks are listed here:

1) Organization of a rural network of farmers.

2) Analysis of the socioecological system to define the local biodiversity resources (both forestry and agriculture).

3) Agreements for a shared adoption of the micro-ecological networks, by reconstituting a system of hedgerows with shrubs and trees, which divides the land in a number of medium-small arable fields.

4) Tuning of rotation practices with valuable species, varieties and cultivar typical of that territory.

5) Set up of a local marketing strategy basing on the concept of cultural 0 km.

Marco Lauteri

CNR-IRET (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche - Istituto di Ricerca sugli Ecosistemi Terrestri)

Edited by: Maria Rosa Mosquera-Losada (USC)

Layout by: Javier Rodrigo Rigueiro

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