



First Mediterranean “Local Solidarity Partnerships” Experience-Sharing event

Marseilles, Feb 29th, March 1&2, 2016



EXTENSIVE MINUTES
April 2016.



Presenting the pilot project :

<Towards a Mediterranean network of LSP > (December 2015 - March 2016)

> Overall framework:

A brief history of the Mediterranean project

Since 2004, the international network URGENCI brings together citizens, small farmers, consumers, activists and concerned political actors at global level through an alternative economic approach called Local and Solidarity-based Partnerships between Producers and Consumers (LSP) as a way to maintain and develop family-scale organic farming and to achieve local food sovereignty for each region and each community worldwide.

There is no fixed way of organising these partnerships, it is a framework to inspire communities to work together with their local farmers, provide mutual benefits and reconnect people to the land where their food is grown. The emergence of *Teikei* in Japan, *Community Supported Agriculture* in USA, UK and China, *Solidarischelandschaft* in Germany and Austria, *Association pour le Maintien de l'Agriculture Paysanne* in France and of many other initiatives shows how consumers and farmers in various places are responding to the same global pressures. This supports the development of organic family-run farms and local fair food systems.

CSA, as a way to contribute to a greater solidarity between urban and rural communities, is equally empowering for both the community and the farmers and offer solutions to common problems facing producers and consumers worldwide. One of the main roots for the current food crises, as well as for social unrests more generally, is that farmers alone have been shouldering the risks of the increasingly ruthless global market, which has forced millions of them from the land.

CSA offers one of the most hopeful alternatives to this downward spiral, and is the only model of farming in which consumers consciously agree to share the risks and benefits with the farmers. Fair local food systems are an efficient tool to restore **local food sovereignty** for all regions and communities worldwide.

One of the objectives of Urgenci International network is to identify the many CSA experiences around the world and to help the people to dialogue. This aims to promote this type of partnership as much as possible as one of the most efficient solutions to the deregulation of global production, markets and food distribution. By doing so, Urgenci aims to participate in the efforts made by many civil society organisations to establish food sovereignty and solidarity economy, two of the main pillars of agroecology.

Urgenci carries out many advocacy actions aimed at highlighting the important role that a strong alliance between producers and consumers and CSA can play. Since 2012 the network has been part of the Civil Society Mechanism¹ of the U.N. Committee on Food Security and Nutrition where the network represents the consumer constituency. Urgenci's members also work with their allies in the International Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) that is the platform for many social movements.

FAO has recently supported Urgenci's work on an initial pilot project aimed at *“supporting the exchange of good practices between already existing alternative food distribution systems and increasing capacity of rural and urban citizens on sustainable food distribution systems in the Mediterranean area”*.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the network, as although Urgenci is present on all five continents, and very active in certain regions (especially in Europe and Asia), the current challenge is how to strengthen the dynamic of CSAs in regions where it does not yet have a strong presence. This also corresponds to the FAO desire to increase food security in their priority

¹ The CSM was created top-down by the FAO in 2009, to enable the social movements of the food sector to have a place to allow their voice to be heard. This is a very new initiative within the UN institutional framework. And most importantly, it is for us to make it a bottom-up space where the food sovereignty movement as a whole can express their opinions and work towards global policies that protect small-scale farmers' and consumers' interests alike.

> Why the Mediterranean region?

We chose to locate this pilot project around the Mediterranean sea.

Indeed, following a request made by the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region in France to take part in the first MedCOP² that was held in Marseilles last June, Urgenci, thanks to three of its member networks, the Provence AMAP network (France), the Swani Tiqa (Morocco) and the GAS (Italy) mobilised and took part in the event. The fight against climate change is a natural objective for CSAs, as they are built on co-operation and harmony with nature (they are generally based on low-impact agriculture that uses no chemical inputs as well as local distribution and minimum packaging). By participating in the movement to relocalise the economy, CSAs support the movement to maintain develop agroecology through peasant agriculture and the strong connection with local consumers. They also largely contribute to greater biodiversity, in the interests of future generations.

This opportunity has provided Urgenci with the possibility to strengthen its partnerships with the initiatives around the Mediterranean³ and establish some exchange of practice, and ultimately will lead to building a proper Local Solidarity Partnership network in the region. Our proposal fits into the heart of the Mediterranean Positive Agenda process, as one of the solutions to *issue n°5: Strengthen solidarity between cities and sustainable territories*.

It was possible to hold a first exploratory meeting in Paris on December 7th 2015, during COP21. Urgenci, the Moroccan Network for Agroecological Initiatives, the Mediterranean Basin pole of Terre & Humanisme and the Provence AMAP network all took part in the meeting. **The objective was to prepare the organisation of a first meeting to exchange experiences that will take place from 29th February to 2nd March 2015. The Provence AMAP network will be the hosts.**

² This event was aimed at gathering actors from all over the Mediterranean area to build up a shared vision (called Positive Agenda) on what are the local and regional solutions to climate change in the lead up to the COP21 held in Paris. The next MedCOP will happen in Tangiers (Morocco) in May 2016.

³ Urgenci's activities in the Mediterranean led up to three outcomes so far:

- First, peer-based solidarity is a key to sound dissemination: CSA-like initiatives have blossomed as a consequence to experience-sharing activities, like in Morocco (since 2009, Swani Tiqa = the "Trustworthy Market gardens"); in Croatia a network of 15 Local and solidarity-based partnerships, with 9 farms and a thousands consumers since 2012 and in Greece where fair local food initiatives expand in the context of the intensifying turmoil.
- Second, fledgling CSA experiences are getting stronger and networking. In October 2014, a conference we organised during the IFOAM World Organic Congress with our partners brought up together 175 participants and highlighted the work done by a Turkish NGO to promote and federate LSP. Since 2011, Swani Tiqa actors organised exchanges with Tunisian and Egyptian peers.
- Last but not least, they have also led to the strengthening of experienced CSA networks or (like in AMAP in France, GAS in Italy and many groups in Spain) and opened up their activities to cooperation with fledgling initiatives.

The Association [Terre et Humanisme](#), through its international solidarity section and Mediterranean Basin activities, is happy to partner with the Urgenci network in the context of their general objectives of “relocalising the economy at territorial level and in equitable exchange”. The CSA model in particular and short circuits in general are the alternatives promoted by Terre et Humanisme. The association has been supporting agroecological gardens and initiatives close to CSA principles for many years, especially those of their partners in Morocco and Burkina Faso.

Terre et Humanisme, together with other actors involved in agroecology around the Mediterranean Basin, wishes to encourage all initiatives that strengthen links, exchanges, synergies and that capitalise on experience-sharing between local actors. The association is helping a Mediterranean network of Local Solidarity Partnerships to emerge through the pilot project led by Urgenci in the favourable context of “the development of peasant agrological agriculture that respects humankind and the environment”, which is an aspect of the core mission of Terre et Humanisme.

The [Moroccan Network of Agroecological Initiatives \(RIAM\)](#) has the statutory objective of establishing and facilitating a network by communicating, working with and supporting agroecological initiatives and permaculture in Morocco. Organising meetings between agroecological actors and people involved in permaculture, raising awareness of civil society in general, in both rural and urban populations, developing advocacy for an ethical approach and overall ecological transition and strengthening cooperation at national and international level.

The RIAM, together with Urgenci, through one of its members, the Swani Tiqa, that is involved in the heart of networking and the desire to work efficiently, has agreed to participate in the pilot project « Towards a Mediterranean network of Local Solidarity Partnerships ». Urgenci is the project leader. MedCOP21 and COP22 will be held in Morocco in 2016. This provides the RIAM with a unequalled opportunity to develop networks of actors who do not usually work together in Morocco as well as around the Mediterranean Basin, and even at global level. It also provides an opening to build unique partnerships that encourage co-operative synergies between the North and the South as well as between countries of the South. This will provide a dynamic force for positive change for humanity and the planet, especially in the context of both food sovereignty and food security.

The association Alliance Provence (renamed [Les AMAP de Provence](#), regional network of Miramap on 14th November 2014) was created in Provence (France) in 2001, at the time of the creation of the firsts CSAs in France. The objective was to support dissemination of the CSA model in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur region and beyond. The AMAPs (Association to Maintain Peasant Agriculture: French CSAs) have continued to be highly successful and remain an important dimension of citizens’ commitment to

support local organic peasant agriculture in an economically viable way that respects people, animals and the environment.

The PACA Region, an historical partner of the regional network Les AMAPs de Provence requested the association to participate in local solidarity initiatives from around the Mediterranean Basin that were recognised as solutions that contribute to fighting climate change last June. The Italian GAS and RIAM network, represented by the Swani Tiqa together with the AMAPs de Provence came together during the MEdCOP21 meeting last June to this effect.

It is an obvious next step for the AMAPs de Provence network to participate in the pilot project of creating a Mediterranean network of Local Solidarity Partnerships led by Urgenci, and to support the project by hosting the first meeting of actors from around the Mediterranean Basin.

The first meeting to exchange and share experiences took place in Marseilles from 29th February to 2nd March 2015 with participants from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, Turkey, Macedonia, Greece, Croatia, France and Spain.



RÉSEAU RÉGIONAL DU MIRAMAP



L'agroécologie à taille humaine



Here is the extensive report of this warm and Mediterranean experience!



Program of the first Mediterranean Local Solidarity Partnerships Experience-Sharing event

**Mapping project of the LSP initiatives around the Mediterranean basin
Marseilles, Feb 29th, March 1st & 2nd, 2016.**

Arrivals on Sunday, Feb 28th.

For the participants arriving at the airport, there is a [shuttle](#) going directly to the central station, Saint-Charles.

Meeting with your host ; free afternoon.

Monday, Feb 29th:

> Meeting point at [Maison de la Région](#) : 61, la Canebière, 13 001 Marseille at 9.15 am, then driving to Roquevaire.

Farm visits, meetings with peasants and consumers who are members of local CSAs

- Morning: at Jérôme Laplane's farm, in Roquevaire (83)
Lunch at the farm, eating Jérôme fresh vegetables and chickens
- Afternoon: at Marie-Hélène Di-Ruzza's, in la Destrousse (13)
- Evening at the Equitable café, cours Julien, 13006 Marseilles.
 - Aperitif, everyone tells what he/she thinks about the farm visits ; informal discussions
 - Delivery AMAP-Monde, 18h30/20h00
 - PhD candidate Victorien Barbet (GREQAM) gives an overview on his findings about success factors for AMAP; discussions.

Tuesday, March 1st:

9am – 5.30pm: Working session,

Maison de la Région, 61, la Canebière, 13001 Marseille.

Objectives of the day:

- *Learn about each others' experiences*
- *Share the first results of mapping of initiatives identified around the Mediterranean Basin.*
- *Achieve clarification and agreement on understanding of different forms of "LSP"s around the Mediterranean Basin.*

9am – 11am: Round of introductions; everyone presents his/her experience with *THREE* pictures to illustrate what we identify as our « fundamentals ».

We have identified three core values that seem to link our initiatives together. We propose you to bring one picture for each of them, illustrating your daily practice:

1. Agroecology
2. Solidarity; alliance farmer-consumer
3. Food sovereignty

**11.15am-12.45pm: small group discussions about LSP fundamentals/
*World café format***

Lunch on site

2.15pm – 3.30pm: Presentation of the mapping outcomes

First results of the mapping undertaken by the organizers of the meeting: state of play in the different Mediterranean countries.

3.45pm – 5.30pm: Discuss these results in small groups: how to improve the mapping?

Evening : Diner at Court-circuit, Notre-Dame du Mont, 13 006 Marseilles.

Wednesday, March 2nd:

9am-12.45pm : Situation analysis - Towards a network?

Maison de la Région, 61, La Canebière, 13001 Marseilles.

Objectives of the session:

- *Carry out a first shared audit on how to increase rural and urban citizens' involvement/engagement in sustainable food distribution systems*
- *Starting a joint reflection on how best to create and develop a future Mediterranean Basin network of LSPs?*

Two moments:

9.30am -11am : Small groups / World Café

11.15am-12.45pm : Plenary session on the follow-ups of the meeting and how can we work together?

Lunch at Comptoir Dugommier, 13001 Marseilles.

Au revoir!

DAY ONE --- Monday, Feb 29th: Farm visits

On the first day of the meeting, participants all joined a farm tour to visit two local AMAP⁴ farms in the surroundings of Marseilles that feed AMAP members from the city:

- **Jérôme Laplane's farm, Roquevaire.**



This is where Jérôme started growing strawberries with his father back in 1991. In the spring of 1998, he lost 90% of his crop and decided to go organic and change his marketing strategy. After he had been working the soil using natural amendments and systems of pest control for a year, his father said that the soil had started to smell like it used to when he was young, and had regained the lovely colour he had always known as a child.

He became a pioneer of the AMAP movement, and was one of the first AMAPs created in the Provence region in 2001. Since then, he's been an enthusiast and inspiring advocate for the AMAP model and movement, mentoring many young farmers and being part of the AMAP networks.

He's now a successful fruit and vegetable grower with a 6-hectare farm (almost 15 acres); he has 8 seasonal workers in the summer and 3 permanent people who work year round on the farm.

The main specificity of AMAP production is the variety: Jérôme grows 60 to 70 plant species and more than 110 cultivated varieties!

His son has now started farming too, and has created a specific AMAP for young people, mainly students. The objective is to provide them with affordable, nutritious food in baskets whose size is adapted to their specific needs.

⁴ AMAP= Association pour le Maintien de l'Agriculture Paysanne, French CSAs.

We spent the whole morning on his farm visiting and discussing how he works, and had lunch there, made of produce from his farm. As a dessert, we tried the experimental sorbet ice-creams he is starting to make: lemon, mint and beetroot!

- **Marie-Hélène Di-Ruzza's, La ferme du Tourtaret, La Destrousse.**



Marie-Hélène Di Ruzza and her partner Samuel are new farmers who now grow organic vegetables and produce eggs in La Destrousse where their small farm was established in 2011 with the support of the community (and their mentor Jérôme!). They naturally chose the AMAP model, and also have farm-gate sales as well as selling at farmers' markets. We had interesting discussions on how difficult it is to start farming when you are new to it, and how the support of the community (AMAP members, experienced farmers, municipality) is vital for newcomers to settle successfully on the land (and also what huge amounts of work are involved).

Evening at l'Equitable café, community café



This café is the distribution point for AMAP-Monde. Every Monday, from 6 to 8pm, AMAP members come and prepare their weekly baskets before taking them home!

While the distribution was going on, we gathered for an aperitif. Everyone was invited to give feedback about what he/she thought about the farm visits.

There was much informal discussions before the presentation by a PhD candidate, Victorien Barbet (GREQAM, Aix-Marseille) of an [overview on his findings about success factors for AMAP](#). His current investigations aim to create socio-economic indicators to evaluate Short food supply chains and local agriculture.

DAY TWO --- Mapping project of the Local Solidarity Partnership initiatives around the Mediterranean Basin: Working session 1.

Objectives of the day:

- ***Learn about each others' experiences***
- ***Share the first results of mapping of initiatives identified around the Mediterranean Basin.***
- ***Achieve clarification and agreement on understanding of different forms of "LSP"s around the Mediterranean Basin.***

9am – 11am: Round of introductions

Everyone presented his/her experience with *THREE* pictures to illustrate what we identify as our « fundamentals », three core values that link our initiatives, and illustrate our daily practice:

- 4. Agroecology**
- 5. Solidarity; the farmer-consumer alliance**
- 6. Food sovereignty**

Organizers first introduced the working session:

- **Judith Hitchman, URGENCI's president**

Part of Urgenci's vocation is helping building LSPs, bridges between solidarity economy, food sovereignty and the right to food.

The CSA network has developed a specific advocacy process, from local to global, with a grassroots focus in Europe with many EU-funded projects.

But of course, Food insecurity exists both within and outside the EU; it is why the FAO has agreed to fund a first pilot project to bring the 2 shores of the Mediterranean sea to jointly share knowledge and see how we can build LSP together around common values:

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY: what food and how people want to grow it.

AGROECOLOGY: not just a toolkit, but a genuine way of life, re-introducing our ancestral know-how to re-use it and care for our planet and people-centred relationships.

We are now hopefully building a new network jointly with Terre & Humanisme. We need to pool our local knowledge and resources, as both shores of the Mediterranean are currently living through a dramatic situation that is not going to get any easier: Greece is in the frontline, Palestine has already been living in a protracted crisis situation for many years.

Participants around this table come from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, Turkey, Macedonia, Greece, Croatia, France and Spain.

Not all Mediterranean countries are represented, but we truly hope this is just a beginning!

Our main objective is to disseminate farmer-to-farmer and peer-to-peer popular education and experience sharing, to organise the first “learning journeys” for CSA members and members-to-be to meet and learn from one another. To achieve our goals, we need resources and FAO knows that: hopefully, this is just a first step of a wider and other projects! Today, we will work on mapping; the outcomes will be presented in a report and in person in Rome; we’ll do our best to make it all work well and hope for a successful follow-up.

Thank you all for coming, thank you to the organizers of this meeting and to newcomers, Bob from BEDE and Lucille from Terre & Humanisme.

- **Mickael Beji, Mediterranean Area project coordinator, Terre & Humanisme**

Thank you for coming from so far away to be with us now and for having prepared your contribution. I represent Terre & Humanisme, which supports its partners to promote alternative proposals and solutions for agriculture.

Advocating for Agroecology is not only about using agricultural techniques which respect living organisms, but also aims to encourage and foster sound and caring relationships between farmers, and build local solidarity partnerships between farmers and conscious consumers.

We are glad to be part of this effort that aims to address two crucial issues on such a challenged and promising territory. Our aim at this meeting, where representatives of 18 Mediterranean countries are attending is also to promote cooperation between our countries, to foster exchanges, better understanding and hopefully projects that we can build together after this meeting.

- **Aziyadé Bainouti, President of the Provence AMAP network and spokeswoman of the national MIRAMAP network:**

Les AMAP de Provence is happy to host this meeting as we believe our network can help to disseminate a model of committed relationships between producers and consumers. Indeed, AMAPs in Provence have years of experience and efficiency: the first AMAP was created in 2001 in Aubagne, the regional AMAP network was set up a few months later. In November 2014, it changed its name: it is now “Les AMAP de Provence”.

Since its beginning, the AMAP has been like a guiding star ... we should not forget this model was born from a revolt against junk food! And it has grown exponentially until 2012, when MIRAMAP decided to stop communicating as there was too many people on waiting lists and too many issues of access to land with not enough producers free and interested in engaging with the model.

We advocate for mutual solidarity and fair prices, trust and community; not everything is always simple, when we have to confront the merchandising and attitudes of the industrial food system. We believe we will ultimately emerge

stronger together, learn from one another and set up mentoring processes. AMAP networks have focussed at inter-regional level on accompanying new farmers with committed consumers and experienced farmers, so they could switch from conventional to organic agriculture.

We hope we can help to promote the LSP model around the Mediterranean Basin and are willing to play a key role in facilitating the experience-sharing on the basis of farmers-to-farmer and farmer and consumers.

Welcome!

- **Annie Mellouki, RIAM (Réseau des Initiatives Agroécologiques du Maroc)**

I chair an association called the RIAM (Network of the Agroecological Initiatives in Morocco). Its mission is to federate the many agroecological initiatives that exist although the people involved often don't know each other. And to organise meetings, create links and build synergies. The strength of a network is precisely to work together more and faster. Here our objective is therefore to create a network of networks.

The idea for this initiative emerged while meeting at first during the MedCOP21 meeting last June in Marseilles.

URGENCEI's objective was to seize the MEDCOP21 as an opportunity to organise an initial meeting with other Mediterranean networks of local solidarity partnerships and contribute to the "Positive Agenda".

LSPs are now included as part of the solutions to "Challenge n°5: Towards more solidarity and sustainability for city regions":

CSA networks of AMAP and GAS are already well structured in Spain, France and Italy. The URGENCEI network has specifically enabled the CSA network in Morocco to develop. This work is now ready to be disseminated to Tunisia and Egypt. We hope to use the opportunity of MEDCOP to strengthen our partnerships with other initiatives around the Mediterranean and establish a Mediterranean network of LSPs (Local Solidarity Partnerships). Our aim is a first Mediterranean LSP meeting prior to the MEDCOP 22 meeting, in Tangiers (Morocco).

The MedCOP22 meeting will be held in Morocco on July 18-19.

Short food supply chains have sparked great interest among Mediterranean civil society actors and decision-makers; I hope we'll find the means to participate in this great movement of rising awareness about Local Solidarity Partnerships.

- **Lucile Zugmeyer, International Solidarity manager, [Terre & Humanisme](#) :**

With Pierre Rabhi, the "Movement for the Earth and Humanism" aims to become a platform for exchange and inspiration for all those who strive for agroecology as a global approach, not just a catalogue of practice as

promoted by numerous NGOs and now decision-makers, but as an ethical way of life, a systemic approach.

Our strategy is threefold:

- Raising awareness
- Training
- Supporting projects

Internationally, Terre & Humanisme supports projects in West Africa and the Mediterranean: AAA in Palestine, T & H Tunisia, RIAM in Morocco, sharing and pooling knowledge with mainly associative actors. We do not fund projects directly, but are willing to bring our know-how and contacts. We are looking forward to further collaboration with URGENCI, BEDE and you all.

- **Bob Brac de la Perrière, BEDE (Biodiversité Échanges et Diffusion d'Expériences)**

BÉDÉ is a international non-profit organization created 20 years ago, first in relation with Algeria, then West Africa and the Mediterranean area. I am here on a courtesy call to draw your attention to the dangers of GMOs, genetically modified and patented organisms, that are a grave threat to the fundamental nature and values of what peasant and organic agriculture.

We are campaigning for farmers to maintain control of their seeds and livestock. We are founding members of the Semences Paysannes (Peasant Seeds) network that was created in 2003, with more than 80 member organizations. Our aims are to:

- Develop biodiversity in gardens and fields,
- Protect farmers rights to save, resow, exchange and sell their seeds and produce.

Facilitating a Mediterranean network is not an easy task. Many have tried; but we would be eager to share and exchange information, build trust and solidarity, and strengthen our relationship for future collaboration, weaving a common network around the Mediterranean Basin, which is our sea, **Mare Nostrum...**

All participants presented their experience based on THREE pictures that illustrate what we identify as our « fundamentals », three core values that link our initiatives and illustrate our daily practice:

1. **Agroecology**
2. **Solidarity: the farmer-consumer alliance**
3. **Food sovereignty**

Please refer to the "[Participants and Initiatives](#)" compilation!
Also available on [our website](#), with videos !



Méditerranée sans frontières, Sabine Réthoré, 2011.

11.15am-12.45pm: small group discussions about Local Solidarity Partnership fundamentals (World café format)

We used the “World café” methodology to discuss what we had heard from the presentations. This gave the participants have more time to meet with others and express what they think about the allocated topics.

What common objectives do we have on the 3 key points?

Agroecology, Producer – Consumer Partnerships, Food Sovereignty.

> Synthesis of the outcomes from the working groups:

1/ Producer – Consumer Partnerships (Table host: Samuel B-L.)

What is a partnership?

- A direct relationship, with physical and visual contact!
- Trust is essential
- A win-win partnership
- Could include different distribution models: CSA, farm gate sales, farmers’ markets, producers’ stores

What are the key challenges?

- Communication and training
- How to attract more customers and be more inclusive
- This partnership between farmers and consumers is not a limited to an economic issue.

2/ Food sovereignty (Table host: Judith H.)

- Agroecology is the foundation of Food sovereignty
- Seeds are the basis
- Involving and educating children is essential
- Building farmer-to-farmer and consumer-to-consumer local networks and scaling to territorial level is essential
- Access to “clean” resources (land, water, sea, seeds)
- Learn from the elders and their traditional knowledge and disseminate
- Communicate and EMPOWER
- Food sovereignty for peasants first! The Right to food for the peasants and their families is essential. We should not confuse food sovereignty and food security based on industrial agriculture with chemical inputs or GMOs!
- We need to take working conditions and advocacy processes into consideration
- FS means building local participatory food policies and local food policy councils (decentralisation)
- Food Sovereignty should be included in public procurement (schools, civil servants, hospitals, elderly, etc.)
- Advocate for small-scale producer-friendly legislation (incubators for new entrants)
- Capacity-building is needed for women as change agents: women as trainers on nutrition and cooking
- Most of all, we should look for inter-cooperation and cross-pollination (agroecology, permaculture, etc.)

AgroEcology (Table host: Mickaël B.)

- Reclaim Agroecology! Make clear reference to the Nyéléni AE Declaration, March 2015.
- Fair trade (local included): Better livelihoods for producers
- We need to keep small groups and scale out rather than scale up!
- Work on national Charters and Common Declarations at all level to clarify values and identity
- Agroecology is not only technical, it is mainly about ethics and a way of life
- Preserve our (agri-)cultural heritage and the Commons (soil, ressources, traditional knowledge and know-how, SEEDS)
- Solidarity between peasants, between consumers, and between peasants and consumers and systemic relationships
- Mentoring: CSA promotes these relationships
- Incubators, low-tech tools, experimental places, community gardens
- Building TRUST
- Is quality of life more important than regular salary?
- Larger groups can be cooperatives; but if they are too big the personal relationship can get lost as well as the commitment of the consumers

2.15pm – 3.30pm: Presentation of the mapping outcomes

First results of the mapping undertaken by the organizers of the meeting: state of play in the different Mediterranean countries.

Census: based on 23 countries in Europe – 3 goals

Why do we need to do mapping? Not only in answer to a request, but to strengthen a common identity.

1. Common Ground
2. Questioning the practical implementation of our common principles in different contexts
3. Support advocacy actions by counting our numbers.

In the EU context, we firstly defined a CSA working definition:

“CSA is a direct partnership between a group of consumers and one or several producer(s) whereby the risks, responsibilities and rewards of farming activities are shared, through a long-term formal or informal shared agreement. Generally operating on small-scale, CSAs aim to provide quality food produced in an agroecological way”.

What is our Mediterranean mapping about?

We must first decide on a definition of what we initially called Local and Solidarity Partnerships. This will involve:

- A country report: 4-5 pages long
- A census based on 20 questions

Please refer to the [Mapping Results document](#).

Discussion

Samuel (Spain): This diversity is rich, because it allows to reach out many different target groups.

And so the question we have to address is: what do we count and why?

We need an Action plan and a strategic outlook.

Touriya (Morocco): This CSA spirit, as conveyed by Urgenci, cannot be developed in our country as widely as we would expect or like it to. Swani Tiqa has existed since 2007, and we are really proud of this experience but it would be challenging to develop it further.

And yes, the terminology we will use is important.

Ceyhan (Turkey): The concept of Local and Solidarity Partnerships corresponds to a need. In Turkish, we say "Agriculture with contact"!

Ahmed (Egypt): For me, the essence of CSA would be paying upfront.

Maybe the words are not as important as the practice.

Karim (Algeria): I am really surprised by the results! It seems that AMAP are for wealthy consumers, so it does not reach out to the people who need it most.

Ceyhan: We have to be clear that price is just the flag that there is a problem in our economic system with the price issue,: costs in chemical and industrial production are externalized, so it is society that pays for cultural, health and economic costs. We need further changes, and co-production is one of them: the real solutions require meta-changes.

A round to see if there was consensus on the CSA terminology:

- **Egypt:** CSA is fine
- **Lebanon:** CSA is alright; LSP is too vague
- **Tunisia:** LPS does not exist in Tunisia; we have consumers and farmers too, but no LSPs. A farmers' group from Djerba tried to introduce it using the AMAP principles, but it did not last long. "Agriculture Soutenue par la Communauté", why not.
- **Algeria:** I like GASAP better, like in Belgium: Groupe d'Achat Solidaire pour l'Agriculture Paysanne.
- **Turkey:** CSA is the right term; it is very well-established in Turkey but not always coupled with prepayment.
- **Palestine:** we can have a different word in different countries; what's relevant is the essence. In Palestine, we say Sharaka, which means partnership. As consumers, we want agroecological products.
- The other group is AKL BALADI- "My food is local".
- Mickaël, Terre et Humanisme: I would opt for a term that would include "ecological", and my personal viewpoint is that CSA comes from elsewhere and we could choose a more Mediterranean term.

- **Morocco:** The term “CSA “ should be copyright. What we are here to defend is something else: it is how to ensure a decent income for small-scale farmers.
- So, are you talking of pre-paid baskets for a 6-month period? Are Internet sales part of CSA? If a agroecological farmer tries to avoid the distribution aspects and asks a middleman to do it, is it still CSA?
- I think the name is different in each country.
- I am glad we have our own name that is not AMAP, Teikei, ACP (Agriculture Contractuelle de Proximité in Switzerland), or CSA.

Community Supported Agriculture = Agriculture Solidaire et Communautaire

To enhance the questionnaire template you have filled up already, what do you think about the questions:

- * What model would be most adapted to your country?
- * What are the main obstacles that first need to be overcome?

Tunisia: If CSA does not exist in your country, what do we work with? Organic Farmer's Markets? Because many sustainable agriculture forms exist and we must not neglect them.

Spain: I would opt for a broader term that includes “ecological”, “direct”.

Mickaël: what about “Mediterranean ecological and agricultural solidarity network”?

Our work should be CSA and encompass a broader scope within the questionnaire.

- * What model would be most adapted to your country?

Croatia: The principles of what we do are those of Teikei. An overarching word will come later. We are a creative movement, we want to embrace this diversity.

Palestine: Standardization and domination are not useful for what we are trying to achieve; the same holds true for organic certification.

Whatever we do must be based on AGROECOLOGY. it is fundamental, and there should be reference to the Nyéléni Declaration on Agroecology.

- Community Supported Agriculture
- Local and solidarity based partnerships between producers and consumers
- Increasing citizens involvement in sustainable food distribution systems
- Solidarity-based ecological agricultural network/partnerships in the Mediterranean Basin

Day 3: 9am-12.45pm : Situation analysis - Towards a network?

Objectives of the session:

- *Carry out an initial shared audit of how to increase rural and urban citizens' involvement/engagement in sustainable food distribution systems*
- *Start joint reflection on how best to create and develop a future Mediterranean Basin network of LSPs*

We again used the very fruitful world café methodology, after a first plenary session where we decided to work more specifically on what our objectives and goals would be, and how to achieve them.

We certainly need to progress in our collective work. The current plan is to start building a strategic plan for the future, and the key question is how to develop a common project?

1. What common goal?
2. What do we need to achieve this goal?

We started with the same three fundamentals we had first identified: Agroecology, solidarity between producers and consumers, Food Sovereignty but we finally came to slightly different conclusions:

We opted for:

1. Committed actors (and not “good people!”)
2. A good plot of land
3. Trust

This all includes the following key components:

Training, risk-sharing & reclaiming food sovereignty now!

1. Committed actors (Table host: Aziyadé B.)

- Experience sharing on producer-consumer relationships/risk sharing (moving towards CSA)
- Improving farmers' and consumers' livelihoods and living conditions
- Right to Food
- Communication / Advocacy

GOALS

- Experience-sharing trips (“learning journeys”) to make these partnerships live/ grow, to reinforce them
- More practical training sessions on specific topics
- Online knowledge-sharing
- Motivating actors

HOW TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS

- Facebook page to keep in touch (this requires a moderator)
- Clear document / Common Ground Charter, explaining who we are
- Video to disseminate knowledge (about some specific projects)
- Training on how to capture and carry the farmers' voice
- Media Kit: One-pager
- Train ambassadors / catalysts

2. Good plot of land (Table host: Ahmed G.)

- Agroecology training program: farmer-to-farmer mentoring
- Incubators / Experimental centres (for farmers and/or community gardening, also a place to welcome refugees)
- Unpolluted resources (issues of polluted water and land, no GMOs)
- Access to land, energy and water

GOALS

- Interconnected farms/ agroecological gardens in different regions
- One educational farm in each country
- Access to land, clean resources
- Building seed networks
- Popular Education

HOW TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS

- Needs assessments (not for the whole country, but for the initiatives we work with in each country) → template + assessment from each country
- List serve
- Facebook page
- Investigate legalities of land issues (later)
- Work with the Land, Seeds & Water Coalition
- Build local seed networks / alliances with seed networks
- Skill-sharing database
- Advocacy

3. Trust (Table host: Jenny G.)

- Local solidarity between farmers and consumers (including refugees and IDPs at our local level)
- International solidarity between movements and initiatives
- Alliances with other actors / movements around the Mediterranean Basin
- Common values / Standards/ Declaration
- Holistic approach

GOALS

- Trust between farmers and consumers
- Trust between one another
- Trust between us and government at State and/or local level
- Closer relationships
- We need more meetings like this one
- Trust vs Control
- Common views / goals → Declaration (good idea but cannot be done now, this requires a deeper work for our group)

HOW TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS

- Press Release
- Database/ places for exchange, knowledge-sharing, both virtual and physical
- Database between all of us in which we can pool all resources/ contacts
- Find catalysts in each country that can facilitate the relationship between producers and consumers; they could also be economists, researchers, agronomists...
- We need to choose a lingua franca (English?) or continue using interpretation which is more difficult but may be necessary
- Create a “Mediterranean common folder” where to share our documents

Time-line

March 2nd: Press release

March 10th: Creation of an electronic list with all participants

March 15th: Return feedback on the meeting (1 page per participant + 1 page about initiatives with 3 pictures)

March 15th: Creation of a skill-sharing database (Urgenci will make a proposal for a space/ tool to put online)

March 31st: Country Report + Needs Assessment

April 30th: Urgenci will submit the report to the FAO, based on country reports

To be determined: Restitution meeting with FAO officers in Rome (April 29th)

July 18th-19th: MedCop22

Press release/

The First Mediterranean LSP meeting in Marseilles

We are farmers, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) activists, organizers of farmers' markets, agronomists, agroecologists, permaculture trainers, Food Sovereignty activists, civil society actors **from 12 different countries the Mediterranean Basin**. We are from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, Turkey, Greece, Macedonia (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Croatia, France and Spain.

Over and above the current extraordinary social and economic challenges, our societies are all confronted by the realities of **climate change and increased food insecurity**, and are facing situations of extreme vulnerability. At the very moment when we are confronted to these common issues, and need greater exchange, resource sharing and mutual support, the borders are closing, and the Mediterranean Basin is becoming a space of division, haunted by hundreds of thousands of refugees.

We, as committed grassroots civil society actors, and members of civil society, share the vision of the Mediterranean as a space that brings us all together. On all its shores, in our communities, we are working on a daily basis to craft new solutions based on food sovereignty and solidarity economy. Caring for and nourishing the Earth, and the humans it feeds, lies at the heart of our concerns. We continue to demonstrate on a daily basis that agroecology, implemented by family farmers and supported by committed consumers, provides more effective answers to the environmental challenges than those promoted by agribusiness.

This meeting was **an initiative taken by Urgenci* and its partners**, the *Association Terre & Humanisme*, the Provence Community Supported Agriculture Network (*Réseau des Amap de Provence*) and the Network of Agroecological initiatives in Morocco (RIAM). **We came together from 29th February to 2nd March in Marseilles, for the first Mediterranean meeting of local and solidarity-based food initiatives.** BEDE and Réseau Semences Paysannes (the international Farmers' Seeds network) also joined in our work. At the end of this historical meeting, we are convinced that our initiatives will contribute to strengthening peasant agriculture, its capacity to feed the cities, to recreating social cohesion at both rural-urban and urban levels and to restoring farmers' dignity throughout the whole Mediterranean region.

In order to achieve this goal, we need **to disseminate our best practices**. By **exchanging our field practices and knowledge**, we can strengthen all those who are mobilizing, in all their diversity, to preserve peasant agriculture and build sustainable food systems. **We want to build a Mediterranean network of alliances between agroecological producers and conscious consumers.** We are opening a new chapter of our collective work open to contributions by all.

Join us and contribute to this new collective challenge on <http://www.urgenci.net> !

You may also contact us for any question: [contact\(at\)urgenci.net](mailto:contact(at)urgenci.net)

Feedbacks and expectations

We asked participants to give us a feedback on the meeting, telling us what their expectations were. Here are their contributions:

The foreword from the President!

- This was a particularly emotional and important moment for me, as it was both the first FAO-funded project, and the result of 5 years of hard work and advocacy in Rome; and also because it is my first project as President of Urgenci.
- The fact that we are working for the first time in depth with Terre et Humanisme is very positive: their agreement to work on this project is significant of the potential for Urgenci to grow in a new region.
- The presence of Bob Brac, representing BÉDÉ and Réseau Semences Paysannes also is a new and positive development: Urgenci is an active supporter of farmers' seeds and biodiversity, as they are the key to food sovereignty; these new alliances are therefore in harmony with our overall objectives.
- The level of participants' expectations is very high. We need to be able to find the means to live up to these expectations, as it will involve much popular education and farmer-to-farmer as well as farmer-to-consumer and consumer-to-consumer education and awareness raising. How can we pool our collective existing resources, and raise funding to cover addition resources needed?
- The Mediterranean Basin is one of the most difficult and tense parts of the world today. How can we help make it more food secure? It is not just a matter of funding, but also of building solidarity and social cohesion. The issue of war, social unrest and the resulting crisis of migration is making it more difficult than before to have stable conditions, including for food security. Food sovereignty and local solidarity partnerships between producers and consumers can help make local populations more food secure, but in itself this cannot resolve such issues.

- **Touriya Atarhouch, Association SWANI TIQA, MOROCCO.**

We were two representing the Swani Tiqa association to this first Mediterranean meeting on local and solidarity partnerships between producers and consumers: Najib Bendahman, farmer and myself, President of the Swani Tiqa association. We are among the initiators of this project in Morocco in collaboration with two other producers and some consumers.

The meeting was very rich and even, somewhat intense!

These initial contacts have enabled actors promoting similar initiatives to share experiences, while highlighting the core differences (background, climate, level of training, involvement of CSA members).

Meeting with Morgane and Aziyadé we had not met yet encouraged us to better develop the LSP, involving more our members ... and boosting the association.

Jerome too is a man of great generosity and humanity.

Our hosts, Chantal and Jean-Pierre, were really welcoming and their home impeccable. However, it was a little bit far from the city center (no bus past 9pm).

Finally, our expectations for the future are to keep on sharing with people who could help us consolidating the sustainability of CSA (short food supply chain with commitment, institutional support, dynamic national network, etc.)

- **Karim Rahal, collectif TORBA, ALGERIA**

This first meeting allowed us to get know one another other, to have an idea of the scope of CSA around the Mediterranean.

The observation is simple: it is widespread on the North shore but not on the Southern shore.

Nevertheless, three producers have organized their own AMAPs since 2007 in Morocco, and it works very well!

In Algeria, we have a first experience, with more demand than supply. So we have contacted other farmers. I shall keep in mind what Mr Laplane told us, that education and communication are important, because nothing is possible without active consumers and experienced farmers dedicating time and energy to make those partnerships a success. It is far more than a business transaction!

In Palestine, AMAPs are called Sharaka. In Morocco, it is Swani tiqa. It would be wise for us to use a local name, to speak to Algerian consumers, rather than using a French or an American name like CSA.

Something important we talked about is how to involve children and young people in the partnership, for them to experience what a solidarity partnership is. We do it in Torba quite naturally, without it being systematic.

Trust

For Ms. Laplane, Jérôme's wife, "trust" is what CSA is all about: not a blissful acceptance nor the confidence that we have with friends; unfortunately that is not enough. You have to patiently build this trust, starting by writing a contract between farmers and members and signing a Charter where farmers clearly state they will only deliver produce from their farm, and use no chemicals. To reinforce this trust, we must facilitate the relationships with the farmer and help him/her to improve, to progress. So, we plan to increase the visits to the farm, dividing members into small groups that will visit the farm and observe, exchange and possibly give a hand.

OUR EXPECTATIONS AFTER THIS MEETING: We need to define what are the problems when implementing and operating a CSA and define common strategies by region, for it is obvious that each region has its specific problems in terms of organising, media coverage and most of all, agricultural problems.

Direct outcomes

This meeting has encouraged us to:

1. Create 3 AMAPs, instead of the current 1
2. Engage members in getting more involved on the farm, to experience a true partnership with the farmer.
3. Another idea that popped up: CSF – Community Supported Fisheries! We know a Slow Fish fisherman on Azzefoun (120 kilometers East from Algiers), we will definitely contact him!

- **Insaf Ben Marzouk, Terre & Humanisme TUNISIA**

Marseilles is a beautiful city and it is very impressive to visit the neighborhoods and streets. Our first Mediterranean CSA meeting partly owes its success to this town! I would like to congratulate the organizing team for choosing this place and also all the participants. We had a nice time! This meeting was the first of its kind (and I hope not the last). It allowed us to get to know one another and exchange on our experiences. It was an opportunity to discuss, learn, think about the different initiatives that exist around us. We became a solid team, with active and experienced activists who will provide stability and reliability in the network.

When I returned home, I realized:

- I had finally understood the CSA concept!
- I discovered new short food supply chains that exist in the different participating countries, and the vast solidarity movement of which they form a part (associative Cafes, organic restaurants, cooperatives, associations, biocoop, AMAPs) with very committed people to make it happen.
- We have to expand our network in Tunisia: Agroecology, permaculture, organic farming etc .. and all forms of sustainable agriculture.
- This team gave me encouragement and motivation to continue with my commitment, and feel safe and confident
- Of course, we will have to define our needs and priorities more clearly for the next steps.

Truly, I experienced this meeting more like a gathering of friends, in a family atmosphere, so I think we all wish "every success" for our Mediterranean network!

- **Ahmed Galal, Nawaya, EGYPT**

Travel Arrangements: The documents required to obtain my visa were sent on time and changes were made when I asked for them. I was informed with whom to coordinate upon arrival at Marseilles airport, which was helpful.

Accommodation: I am very grateful for our hosts for having us. They are nice, warm people.

Food: The food was generally very good. However, we were not asked in advance about our dietary preferences and I think it is important with such a diverse group of people.

Meeting times: The first day was really long. Although I was able to follow to the end of the PHD student's presentation, I could clearly see participants who were sleeping and this was normal given the very long day they had had. In my opinion, adding extra hours to travelling people's schedules doesn't add to their productivity and might affect their focus on the following days, so I hope this is considered when planning similar events. I think too much was planned for one day since I see that we should have ended at 8:00 pm, but we ended up finishing at 10:00. For the rest of the days the meeting times were suitable.

Meeting Content and Results: I think for the short time we had, we got to know each other, got a good overview of each other's work, we had fruitful discussions and came up with some concrete actions. The quick follow up on the actions required will be as important as the meeting as people can easily lose steam and get busy with their projects.

Meeting Follow up: We have received the press release in a timely manner. I think the follow up e-mail on the stuff that needs to get submitted was a helpful reminder to people. It is good that there will be a template for mapping and needs so that people send a uniform structure and make our life easier.

Communication and translation: Excellent interpreters. They made the communication within the meeting very effective.

Meeting Participants: The participants represented a diverse group from different initiatives and I think this was very suitable for the purpose of the meeting. The networking opportunity was excellent for our initiative in Egypt, which is still looking to establish Egypt's first CSA. For example, meeting Bob Brac from BEDE was important as we will benefit from the expertise of his organization in creating autonomous seed systems. Also, connecting with Saad Dagher from the Arab Agronomists Association in Palestine can be instrumental in our potential endeavor to train a group of Egyptian agronomists on agroecological practices. My conversations with Danijel from Croatia were very stimulating especially his insights into the group dynamics when different producers attempt to work together to organize a CSA.

Did the meeting meet my expectations? My understanding was that the meeting would involve sharing CSA experiences from other countries in the Mediterranean

and creating a network to support each other. The meeting delivered on this and it was very useful to see how local solidarity partnerships work in different regions. It was important to see the French experience as an example of how CSAs can benefit producers and consumers. However, some practices of the farms that we visited are not applicable in the Egyptian context such as the extensive use of plastic and machinery as they are expensive for Egyptian small-scale farmers. We also discourage the overuse of plastic for environmental reasons.

It was particularly valuable to learn about and connect with newer initiatives such as TORBA in Algeria. I expect that we will be communicating extensively to build on their experience of building a CSA on their own, and I hope we can potentially arrange some exchange visits for our farmers.

- **Rita Khawand, SOILS Permaculture Association LEBANON**

Expectations

I didn't have a lot of expectations as I didn't have a clear idea beforehand about what we would be doing (even though I read the program). The main thing I usually expect from such meetings is to network with people working on similar issues. And as I am relatively new to the agriculture and food security fields, I saw the meeting as a way to get acquainted with other operators.

Moreover, I had contacted Terre et Humanisme Morocco a year ago to ask them if they could organize a TOT on agroecology for SOILS members, and after several months they told me to refer to Mickael, because he is the regional coordinator. So I was looking forward to meeting Mickael and discussing more about possible collaboration on the training level.

Where the expectations met or not?

It was really beneficial for me to get to meet people in person whom I knew only online or whom I've read or heard about (such as Jenny from Greece, Ahmed from Egypt, Saad from Palestine, Annie from the RIAM), and also to meet people I had never heard of (such as the participants from Turkey, Spain and Tunisia).

I was also very pleased to know more about how the AMAP works, I had heard of it when I was in France in 2008 but didn't know any details, and also to hear of other working models such as those in Spain and Palestine.

I also appreciated the visits to the farms, the knowledge of Jerome and the inspiring experience of the young couple. Such meetings are usually very theoretical, and field visits make them more lively, so thank you for this.

It was nice to get to get to know about URGENCI and their work, especially that they're collaborating with PACA region (which has a partnership with the region we're based in). It was good to also learn about BEDE, even though it was brief.

I was hoping to come up with more concrete answers related to the possible agroecology TOT with Terre et Humanisme in Morocco from Annie or Mickael, but I guess the tight schedule didn't allow us time to discuss this.

Some practical aspects:

- I found the discussion sessions to long, tiring, and lacking a bit of methodology. It wasn't clear for me if we were discussing the objectives of the network, the mapping, the terminology, etc. We tended to get lost in terminology (permaculture, agroecology, organic agriculture, CSA, etc.) at times and lose track of the objective of the session. I also found the argument about the terminology to be a bit offensive at times, as if we were evaluating people who work in certain fields (for example agroecology) to be more "important" or efficient than those working in other fields (permaculture). I am sure none of the participants meant to be disrespectful, it might be my

personal sensitivity or just the way it sounded :) But it might be crucial in such broad networking sessions to start with agreeing on a certain "code of conduct": that we all work in different but interrelated disciplines, and each has his/her own experiences in a specific context, and we should respect this, at least until we know each other better and can address certain issues more in-depth.

- Being indoors with no glimpse of natural light was also very tiring (I know it might seem like a detail, but it uses up a lot of energy, although I understand that you had to take the location that was offered).
- I really appreciated the idea of having the participants stay with AMAP members. I enjoyed the company of Annette, who was very helpful and nice, even though in the beginning I found the house to be too far from the centre.

Priority for the network

I see the priorities as follows:

- Getting to know each other more through: shared database + small bilateral collaborations (e.g. we might invite Saad to conduct an agroecology training in Lebanon)
- Identification of some common problems that can be improved through collective efforts

- **Ceyhan Temürcü, TURKEY**

First of all, I want to express my gratitude to the organizers. URGENCI did a great job in accomplishing this exciting task of bringing together that many people from different countries around the Mediterranean Basin.

The program was well balanced between farm visits, presentations and workshops. I think contributors had enough time to making their presentations and for interacting between one another. I am very pleased to have met many enthusiastic people, each striving for positive impacts in their respective regions.

Challenges and expectations

Of course, challenges remain for both local initiatives (as to improving local / national efforts towards ecological and socially beneficial solutions) and for co-operation between these initiatives. I believe that solutions to these challenges will come up as we continue to interact and evolve towards more concrete solidarity projects.

- **Jenny Gkiougki, GREECE.**

To start with, I want to express my joy and gratitude for this inaugural meeting as it is something I have been envisioning for the last five years. Creating and establishing connections and a working network between all the countries around the Mediterranean Basin is of the utmost importance. Such a network can prove very helpful in tackling common issues - from diseases that attack our (common) plants, to farming practices, to similar patterns in consumer involvement, to the refugee camps.

It is important to remember that food is not just fuel for the body, it is a cultural event with historic associations and especially in the Mediterranean basin this is very apparent - all countries have their own food culture that can be traced back to thousands of years of eating and farming practices.

Expectations from the meeting

I had no exact expectations as such, this being the first time we all came together. I imagined it would be an introductory meeting that could possibly help create some bonds...although I am used to the efficiently run meetings by URGENCI that always end with concrete outcomes and results.

Evaluation of the meeting

I was very happy to see a good representation from the South Med area - kudos to the organisers for this -although I hope that such a network will eventually encompass many more countries, so as to truly be the Mediterranean Basin Network.

In terms of the organisation, I liked the sleeping arrangements -it promotes bonding and we should use it as much as possible.

I liked how the whole event was organised: the trips to the farmers' for a first-hand experience; the evening visit at the drop-off point and the presentation of the PhD Thesis were important add-ons - especially for those coming from countries with little experience in such matters.

The organising committee was very considerate of cultural differences between participants and they were taken into consideration. If I needed to make a remark on this I would say that perhaps next time food portions could be larger – another cultural difference, (I heard comments on this)...

In terms of the actual proceedings, we identified common issues having to do with soil, water – resources in general - pollution, access, restrictions, cultural, bureaucratic and farming similarities, perceptions, readiness of consumers, problematic land tenure...We also all identified the need for training, education and awareness-raising both for farmers and consumers.

I saw that people were eager (and indeed some exchanges have already begun). We have more common and pressing issues than I thought before, and we are in the position to help each other to some extent already - be it by exchange of information, know-how and experiences; what is missing now is the framework and the resources to enable us to do so more efficiently.

What is next

- Networking, strengthen bonds between us; build trust and a pool of common resources. Identify our common values and Identify, focus and prioritise pressing common issues.
- Enable and strengthen exchange between us (as individuals and organisations) and spread to include more (people, groups, organisations and disciplines) in each country.
- Include more countries: Portugal, Israel, Cyprus, Malta, Albania, ex-Yugoslav Republics, even Bulgaria, rest of N. Africa.
- Look into the matter of the refugees and immigration as linked to Food Sovereignty and our common goals.
- Help local groups (with resources, planning, templates, etc) to promote Training, Education, Awareness and Dissemination to both farmers and consumers on agroecology and Food Sovereignty. Teach farmers how to be more independent. Help consumers become responsible buyers.
- Create centres/hubs for the exchange of skills, technology and know-how - like the 'refugee-farming exchange centres' we talked about. Promote interdisciplinary exchanges and Research.

- **Aleksandar Gjorgjevski, President of Sunrise - Association for Sustainable Social and Economic Development, REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

Our association was given the opportunity to be present at the first CSA Mediterranean meeting in Marseilles, France, and our organisation has established cooperation with Urgenci – France and other organisations for the future development of Solidarity Agriculture or CSA in Macedonia. We have exchanged experiences with other countries and learned about food production on CSA farms in Southern France. The meeting in Marseilles included CSA organizations from: France, Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, Turkey, Greece, Macedonia, Croatia and other countries.

Our expectations for the future:

Although our organisation still does not have anything similar to CSA in the country, the potential of promoting this model is great. The basic elements of a Community Supported Agriculture model: organic farmers, consumers and retail of organic food, can all be found in the larger cities (especially in the Capital city of Skopje).

According to our research and analysis, with a relevant promotion of the CSA model among the farmers and consumers, we could see the first CSA in Macedonia happening in a short period of time.

With the experience shared in Marseilles and the farm visits, as well as our previous engagement in the organic sector in Macedonia, we feel that we have the motivation and the capacity for working with Urgenci on the future CSA initiatives in the region. An education and awareness seminar with the producers and consumers would be a good start for the development of CSA in Macedonia.

- **Danijel Balaban, president of Croatian organisation Transition Town Pula, CROATIA**

The first day of the Local Solidarity Partnerships was organised on 29.2.2016 starting at 9 am. The attending group of people was colourful, including activists, farmers and agronomists from 12 countries around the Mediterranean Basin.

Our first day started with field visits where our group had the opportunity to see a couple of organic farms in Provence. Even though there is good will for orientation towards Agroecology there was an evident lack of incorporation of those farming practices. Of course, as farmers we do our best to further develop our practices but it's evident how conventional agriculture plays an important role in many branches of farming. There is surely more room for learning and improving our Western approach by looking towards our friends in the East.

On the second day we spent our working hours in analysing the situation of local food distribution around the Mediterranean together with opportunities of how to develop our common Mediterranean partnership highlighting the much-needed farmer education, knowledge transfer and good practice models amongst our groups.

On the last day all of us concluded that we are facing the same circumstances and that climate change is affecting all of us, yet there is a collective spirit and a shared vision of a Mediterranean network of Local Solidarity Partnerships as a binding hub for all of us.

Our partnership could indeed bring a more meaningful approach to knowledge sharing, food sovereignty and solidarity economy, especially in these trying times of wide discrepancy between countries. The need for such a partnership is evident for strengthening family farming, our capacities to feed communities and bring about a wider awareness of urban and rural stakeholders.

- **Samuel Bourrut-Lacouture, Plataforma por la Soberanía Alimentaria Comunidad Valenciana, SPAIN**

Accommodation:

I give a 10 out of 10 to my wonderful host. The house was close to the working place and the room had everything needed, and a beautiful view of the city.

Corine was always available to make my stay easier, she briefed me about the places I wanted to visit (farmers market, Biocoop, Bio c Bon, peasant grocery store) and what transportation to take.

We did enjoy wine and local cheese and breakfast time at her place was a must!

Food:

Everything was tasty and the selected locations were near the working place and “my” house; many dishes were vegetarian with organic and local ingredients.

Farm visits & AMAP model:

Visiting AMAP farms was a lively introduction to the meeting, and it helped us understanding the way AMAPs operate and what the AMAP farmers think about this model.

The CSA model is very inspiring to achieve food sovereignty, agroecology and solidarity between consumers and producers and made us reflect on how we are organized in each of our regions. The AMAP model limits emissions of greenhouse gases, reduces packaging and develops the local economy.

I thought a shocking aspect, in terms of agroecology, were the greenhouses: in our local context, it really provokes debate. The farms we visited gave us a good insight on the degree of commitment of AMAP members; and what is truly amazing is the solidarity between farmers, with mentoring programmes for new AMAP farmers. Thus, the AMAP model, if I'm not mistaken, does not provide all its food a family needs. Another remarkable aspect of the CSA model is networking, we really have to create safety nets all around us!

I found all the remarks and comments the participants made very interesting, based on their local reality. The presentation the PhD candidate made on success factors for AMAP was fundamental: let us not forget that sustainable development is built on three pillars and we need to be able to offer economic alternatives and create jobs in these times of crisis, not only care for environmental and social issues.

About the working sessions:

The presentation each participant made with three pictures gave us a first overview to the situation of CSA and partnerships between farmers and consumers in their countries; we still need more details on how the partnerships are operating. I was expecting to have exchanges with the

Italian GAS, which are the closest to what we have in Spain, especially in Alicante. I hope they will come the next time!

Our collaborative work to find the common points around the Mediterranean Basin, as well as actions to be implemented, to continue with the meetings yielded interesting results although it was easier to talk about communication than practical work between two or more regions. The Platform for Food Sovereignty in the Valencia Region is waiting for the findings of this meeting to consider further collaborations!

To conclude, the meeting was very positive and enriching, a good incentive for working for another world, towards agroecology and food sovereignty.

- **Annie Mellouki, RIAM's president, Morocco.**

As a civil society activist, I am convinced that:

- we need creative and collaborative spaces,
- presential meetings give us strength and a better understanding to carry on with common projects,
- the scope of alternative and committed civil society projects are appropriate to the challenges we have to face with
- networks are the lifeblood of the transition movement.

I think this first meeting organized with the end-in-view of creating a Mediterranean LSP network was very open, enthusiast and gave us hope. Despite our very different experiences in terms of volume, background, impact, etc., it proves that in all countries, farmers, consumers and civil society actors have decided to support family sustainable agriculture.

Sharing the Mediterranean territory means to share cultures and education, languages, gastronomy, natural and agricultural biodiversity, ancestral know-how and knowledge, crafts and technological issues related to climate crises, economics and migration, etc. This is what we have talked about during this 2 ½ days of coming together.

These meetings provide us knowledge about many specific and inspiring experiences. Our working sessions enabled us to set the foundations for a Mediterranean CSA network and its future development.

Since January 2013, RIAM actors expressed the need to connect to other Moroccan or foreign networks. RIAM is now working with Urgenci and partnering with Terre et Humanisme to achieve our common interest: set up a network to connect with others Mediterranean networks.

Creating a trilingual toolbox (French, English, Arabic) would be of considerable impact for the dissemination of knowledge and techniques. Similarly, the organization of meetings, online courses and learning journeys focused on very specific and identical thematic areas would be a way to maintain the links between Mediterranean stakeholders.

Morocco will host in 2016 the multiple climate-related conferences (MedCOP 22, COY 12, COP 22, ..). The MedCOP 22 will take place in Tangier on July, 18-19, 2016: it would be an excellent opportunity for actors of the Mediterranean CSA Network to meet and highlight their experiences of small-scale agroecological farms.

RIAM is already benefiting from the perspectives of an active Mediterranean CSA network working for ecological transition and solidarity. To better refine the strategic axes, priorities and operational objectives of the network, we need to exchange regularly. And find the right partners in the Mediterranean countries which were not represented at the first meeting in

Marseilles. This meeting was really warm and convivial: organizers and participants, farms we visited, the food we ate. Thank you! It was also very nice to meet at last Bob Brac de la Perrière because indeed, preserving local and adapted seed is the fundamental key to our food cycle.

We should probably assess the methodology we used to conduct the plenary sessions and workshops to enhance our efficiency next time. Translators greatly facilitated our work. I liked the idea of “AMAP home stay” and we were particularly pleased with our beautiful meeting with Chantale and Jean Pierre.

It is with great interest that the RIAM and its members will contribute to the sustainable development of the Mediterranean CSA network.

- **F. Mickaël Béji – Regional Coordinator Mediterranean Area, Terre et Humanisme.**

The “Terre & Humanisme” association has helped gathering civil society actors in the Mediterranean amongst small-scale farmers and urban consumers as part of our vision for an agroecological outreach. We invited our partners from Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine and Lebanon, together with RIAM, co-initiator and partner of this meeting.

All together with Urgenci’s partner associations from the North shore of the Mediterranean, these three days have been a great opportunity for associative representatives of the Mediterranean area to meet and share their own experiences in the field of solidarity and agroecology.

This has highlighted the regional issues on rural economic and natural resources but also pointed out the difficulties of grassroots solutions based on solidarity and ecology. During the various workshops, we have reaffirmed our common will to create efficient tools to implement solidarity partnerships between small-scale farmers and urban consumers in the framework of a Mediterranean network. For the record, the majority of the participants have agreed that the name of this network should refer to our common values and objectives, without any reference to already existing names, such as AMAP, CSA or Teikei.

This has confirmed that amongst the Mediterranean countries we have common difficulties, and need a multi-scale approach, related to climate change, the management of natural resources such as water, the loss of soil fertility due to erosion and mineralization, etc.

But our main concern is the poverty of such a majority of our small-scale farmers and their precarious economic situation. Depending on the countries, specifically in the South and the East of the Mediterranean area, farmers work on very small land parcels, i.e. less than 10 hectares and even for most of them less than 5 hectares. Conventional agronomy cannot provide them with solutions that would be both economically viable and environmentally sustainable. The only possible answer that has emerged from the discussions would be the creation of partnerships based on solidarity and ecology within local food systems between small-scale farmers and responsible and committed consumers.

All the participants have been welcomed in Marseilles by the Provence AMAP’s network, and there we experienced, through farm visits and meeting farmers and committed consumers, how AMAPs operate. It was particularly relevant and constructive to meet in their farms, two farmers and their family, among which one pioneer of the AMAP concept and another young farmer starting as an AMAP few years ago. I notice that the development of these social-based contracts is more common on the North shore, and in the future, we should solve this issue!

Another aspect I would like to mention from the different experiences I have seen, is that beyond economics, we should foster the social construction between farmers and consumers as a raising awareness channel on many issues: environment for grownups and children, urban people going back to the country side (families, schools), social and cultural revalorization of rural heritage, ecotourism, agricultural knowledge and productivity, etc. Promoting solidarity-funded approach towards artisanal fisheries, Community-Supported Fisheries, is another idea.

Finally, the conclusion of this meeting is that we urgently need to develop a Mediterranean strategy to overcome the local constraints to the development of local food systems and the creation of structures like AMAPs. Every country needs support in terms of methodology for the implementation of the solidarity structure and/or local food systems, and also training on agroecological know-how to be able to provide on a weekly basis the great diversity of vegetables to the consumers.

Finally, I would like to thank the URGENCI network, who has been supporting and carrying out this pilot project. Civil society organizations committed in supporting small-scale farmers, from all around the Mediterranean area, need such a network to preserve the Environment and protect consumer's health.

Conclusions and recommendations

- **Jocelyn Parot, Urgenci's general secretary.**

Organizing this first experience-sharing meeting and mapping the CSA and ecological solidarity-based partnerships in such a large area as the whole Mediterranean region (a region that includes 19 different countries) in less than 6 months were a major challenge. What has been achieved thanks to the mobilization of all is very promising.

In fact, it has been possible only because it was highly expected. Everyone can indeed witness a momentum around the issues of healthy food, environment friendly production models and fair price for small holders. Several movements are growing in different contexts, sometimes in connection to each other, sometimes in isolation. The actions taken by their members can hardly be strictly assigned to a specific category: for them, CSA and ecological solidarity based partnerships are just one tool within a toolkit. It is increasingly recognized as the most farmer-friendly, although the most compelling, model, and is subject to successful experiments in almost all the countries of the region. However, these experiments should not be analyzed separately from other actions. For example, in Tunisia, the articulation between the 3 embryonic partnerships and the 2 recently established farmers' markets should be assessed before planning next steps.

The priority for our movement is to face the main issue of access to markets for small-scale holders, as underlined by the former UN General Secretary's Special Envoy on the Right to Food. In a report he presented in 2010, Olivier de Schutter wrote that the main issue for the future of family farming is not one of productivity, since Agroecology is able to feed 9 billions human beings. The question is to repair the missing element of the food chain, the connection between agroecological family farmers and conscious consumers. This is exactly the issue Urgenci and its partners have been working on for almost 10 years already. Their work has been driven by the common principles of scaling out instead of scaling up, multiplying instead of growing big. This is the essence of the summarized recommendations that follow.

- **Recommendation 1:**
Follow up and support all the different initiatives

As far as the Southern shore of the Mediterranean sea is concerned, the first recommendation is, in each country, to **follow up the different models**, and assess their adequacy to the local context. There are new initiatives burgeoning everywhere, we should be careful about the way they are fed and cultivated, in order to help them grow. We should avoid imposing a unique model.

- **Recommendation 2:**
Train the farmers

The second recommendation is to train the farmers into the specificities of a direct partnership. Producing for a group of families, providing them with a diversified, organically grown share requires high skills from the vegetable grower's side. There is a need for a significant institutional support to train the farmers into this very specific work. Other farmers should provide this training, if possible from the same country, with an experience of disseminating their working techniques. A **train the trainer program** is a necessity to form a tight network covering the whole area and to avoid any kind of centralization.

- **Recommendation 3:**
Share resources, inform about the different models

The third recommendation is to **share existing resources, in terms of practical, theoretical knowledge, organization schemes**, and to **inform widely about these models**, to circulate the toolkit and make it available to all groups willing to engage into direct partnership with local producers. Here, the help from local authorities would be very beneficial.

- **Recommendation 4:**
Build a network

The fourth recommendation is to **support further meetings as the one in Marseilles**. An unforeseen dimension of this short project is the appetite for a network. Even if there are important social, economic, agricultural differences, even if some of these societies are undergoing major changes, all these initiatives seem to be **driven by similar principles**. They place the human trust -based relationship at the centre. They want to repair the broken social connections between the rural and the urban populations and try to valorize the dignity of the farmers. They want to radically change the way food is produced and distributed and to make it more sustainable. They are ready to share their skills to make this change happen. We all believe that **we need to continue meeting, to enlarge the circle and monitor our progresses on a regular basis, because the time is ripe for building the Mediterranean network of CSA and ecological solidarity -based Food Partnerships**. The next step could be one of the multiple events focused on Climate Change to take place in 2016 in Morocco. For example, MEDCOP22 will be organized mid-July in Tangier.

It could be a great opportunity of further exchanging between actors of the nascent network, and a milestone in the Mediterranean network building process.