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SMALL-SCALE FISHERS' FORUM

Innovations to facilitate efficient SSF value chains: the Foodnetted model

Torino, Italy, 25 September 2022

Summary

Summary of presentations

In the context of the “Terra Madre Salone del Gusto” held in Torino, Italy, from 22 to 26 September 2022 as a forum for communities of best practices, this session was organized to present the Foodnetted model, lessons learned and identified benefits from the piloting of the Foodnetted model in multiple pilot sites. The initiative aims at building and promoting short-distance food systems that ensure increased value for small-scale fisheries products, improved market accessibility for small-scale fishers and a producers-consumers reconnection.

The Foodnetted initiative originated in a collaboration between several organizations which includes Slow Food, Global Footprint Network, Low Impact Fishers Europe (LIFE), Gob Menorca, Martin Scheider Jacoby Association (MSJA), Center for the Protection and Study of Birds (CZIP) and Yolda, and with the support of the MAVA Foundation. The organizing partners started by presenting the Foodnetted initiative, aimed at bringing producers and consumers together through a Community of Practice grounded in shared values.

By shortening the distance between producers and consumers and developing an ethical code of environmental and social values for the way food is produced and consumed, the presenters explained that the project addressed issues in the market system and the difficult situation faced by small-scale producers, including small-scale fishers. In order to promote fair and sustainable food systems based on supporting small local producers and short supply chains, the partner organizations identified crucial points and created communities of good practices around them, based on an organized group of small producers, including small-scale fishers and other key players of the food system, for example, seafood markets, networks of women in fisheries, scientists, non-governmental organizations (NGO), or community supported fisheries schemes, and even chefs.

The presenters noted that the project was conducted in a set of different pilot sites around the Mediterranean: Catalunya, the Balearic Islands (Spain), Sicily (Italy), Ulcinj (Montenegro) and the lands of Sarıkeçili in the

Taurus mountains (Türkiye). They added that, by learning more about sustainable initiatives around the region, local actors were supported in the creation of possible alternative solutions to increase the economic viability of their businesses while also lowering their impact on the planet. To this end, the Foodnected model was articulated around five core values, namely (1) Food sovereignty, quality and health to enhance the resilience of communities; (2) Local development, inclusive governance and social cohesion, in view of better integrating the role of women and younger generations; (3) Local environmental impact for fair and sustainable food systems at local level; (4) Fair livelihoods and fair trade for producers with short and transparent value chains; and (5) Traditional ecological knowledge to preserve knowledge acquired by communities over hundreds of years.

To conclude, the partners organizations created a map for consumers to list local initiatives on the ground, find and contact small-scale producers, always with a view to encourage local/global connections and identify solutions to be applied at local level. The organizing presenters noted that Foodnected acted as a monitoring platform for the implementation of the core values and as peer-to-peer guarantee body, providing greater visibility to the initiatives of its members, sharing knowledge among professionals and co-developing solutions to common challenges.