

MECHANISMS PROMOTING ALTERNATIVE FOOD NETWORKS (AFN) FOR AGROECOLOGICAL TRANSITION: THE CASE STUDY OF VALLE D'ITRIA

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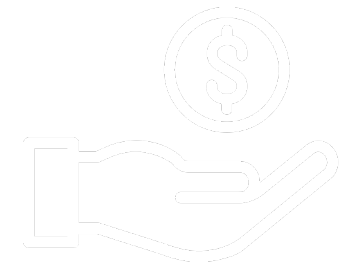
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Agroecological transition

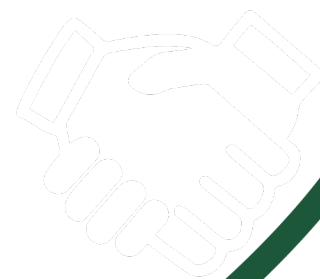
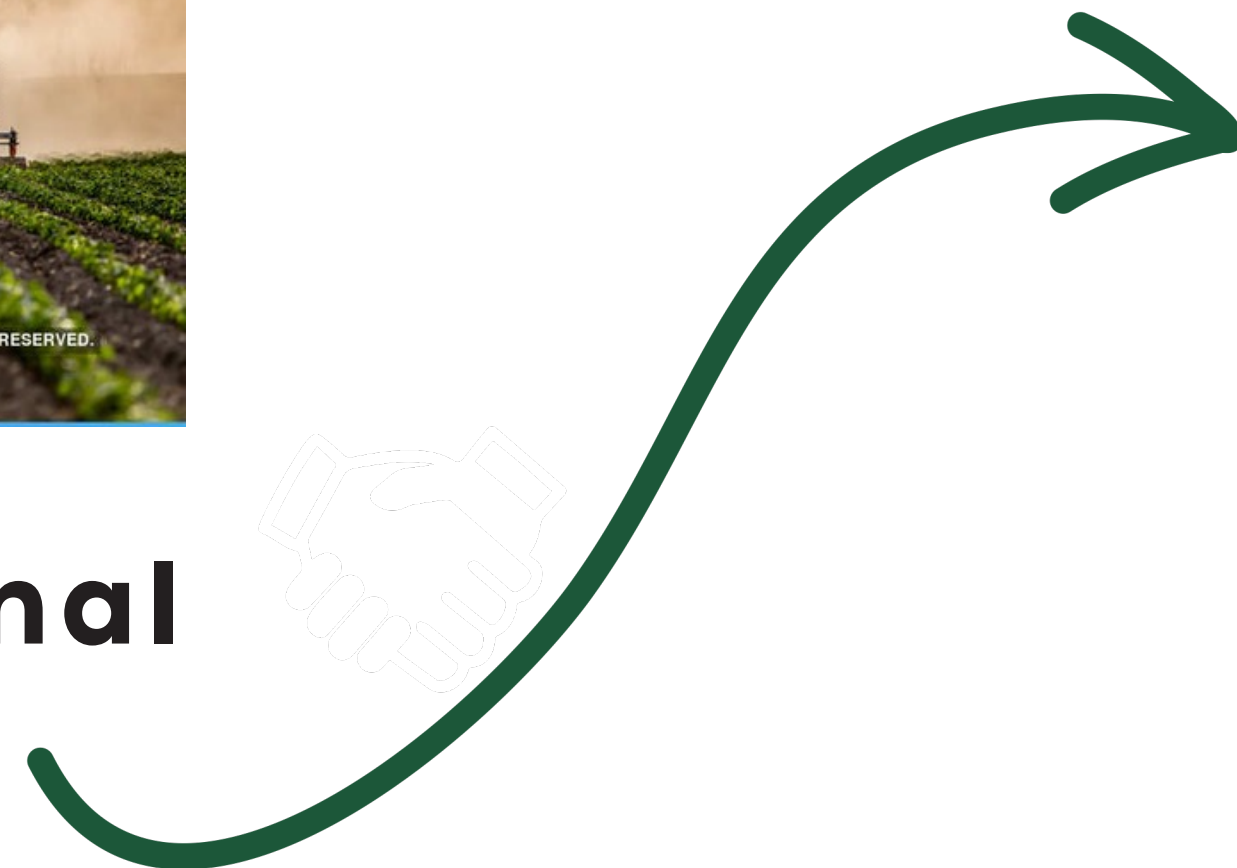
- Process of shifting agricultural practices from conventional, industrialized methods to more sustainable, environmentally friendly approaches that are rooted in the principles of agroecology.



Conventional

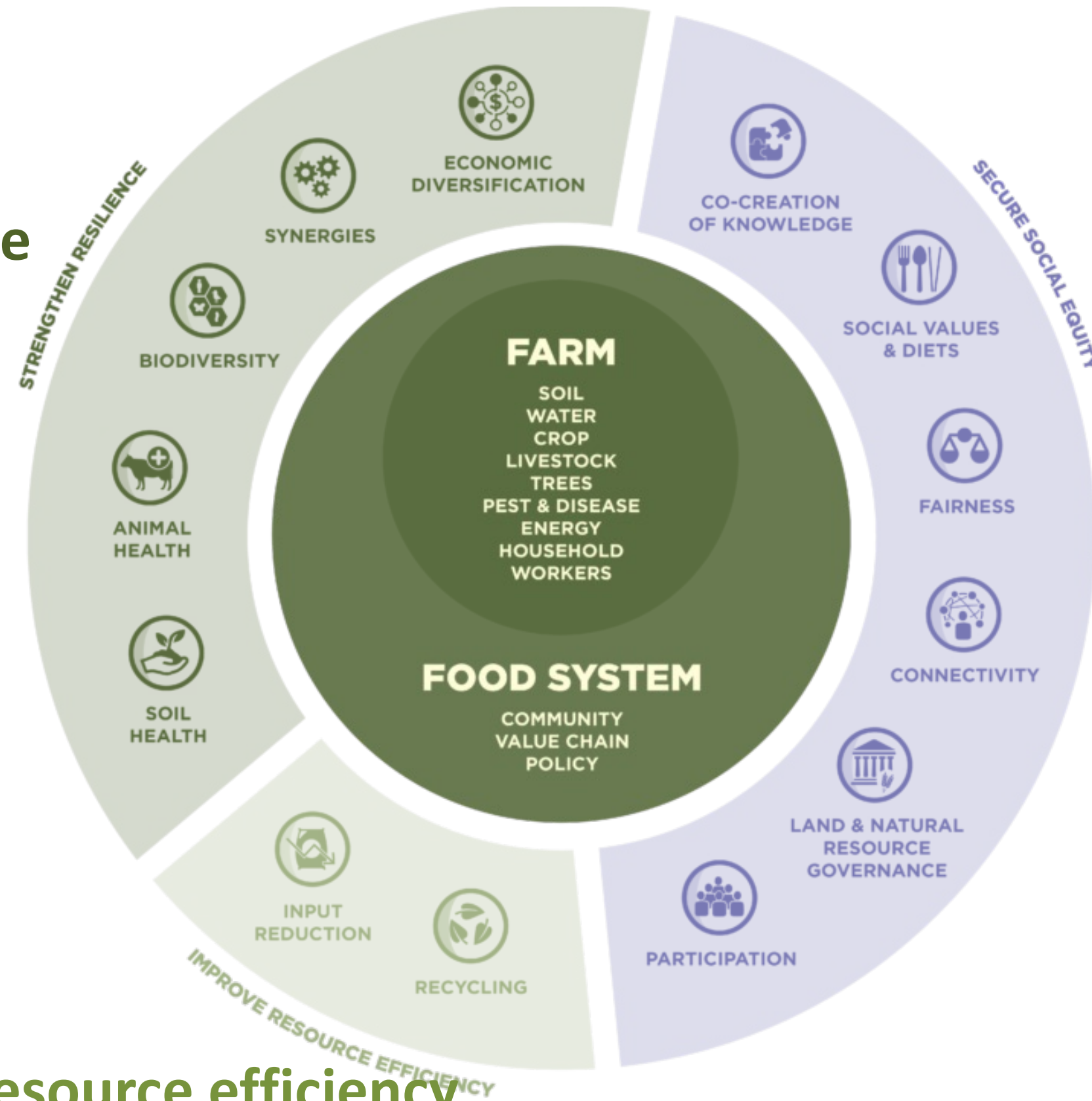


Agroecological



13 Principles of Agroecology

Strengthen resilience

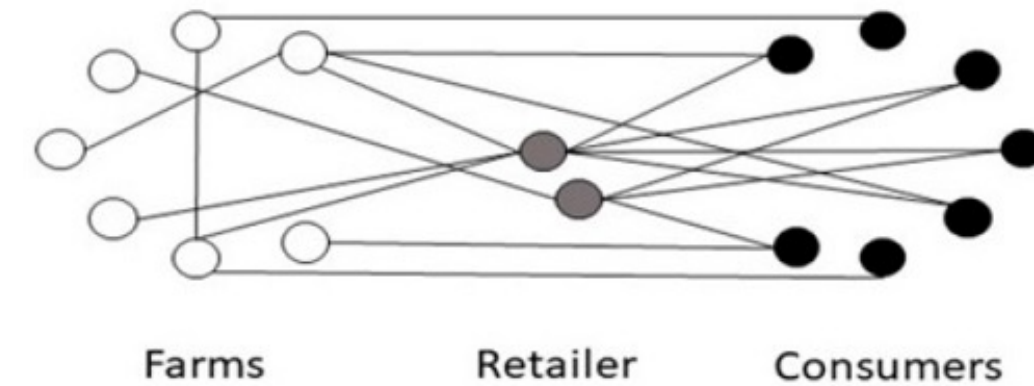
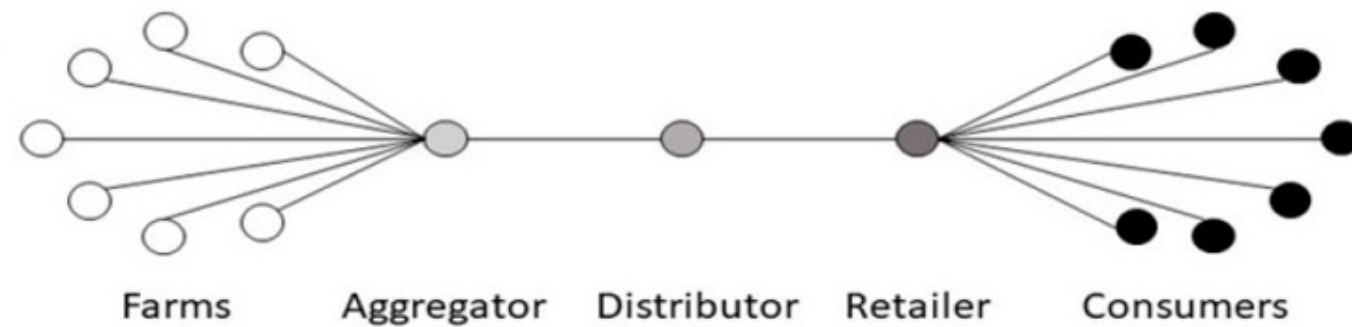
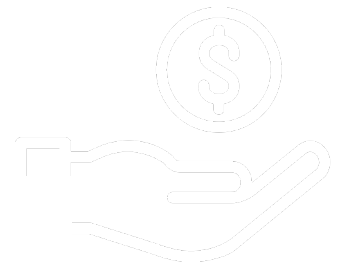


Secure social equity

Improve resource efficiency

Alternative Food Networks (AFN)

Alternative Food Networks represent a shift towards more sustainable, equitable, and localized food systems. By prioritizing localism, sustainability, transparency, and community engagement.



Global Supply Chain

Involves multiple layers of intermediaries.

Involves distant and less direct social relationships between producers and consumers.

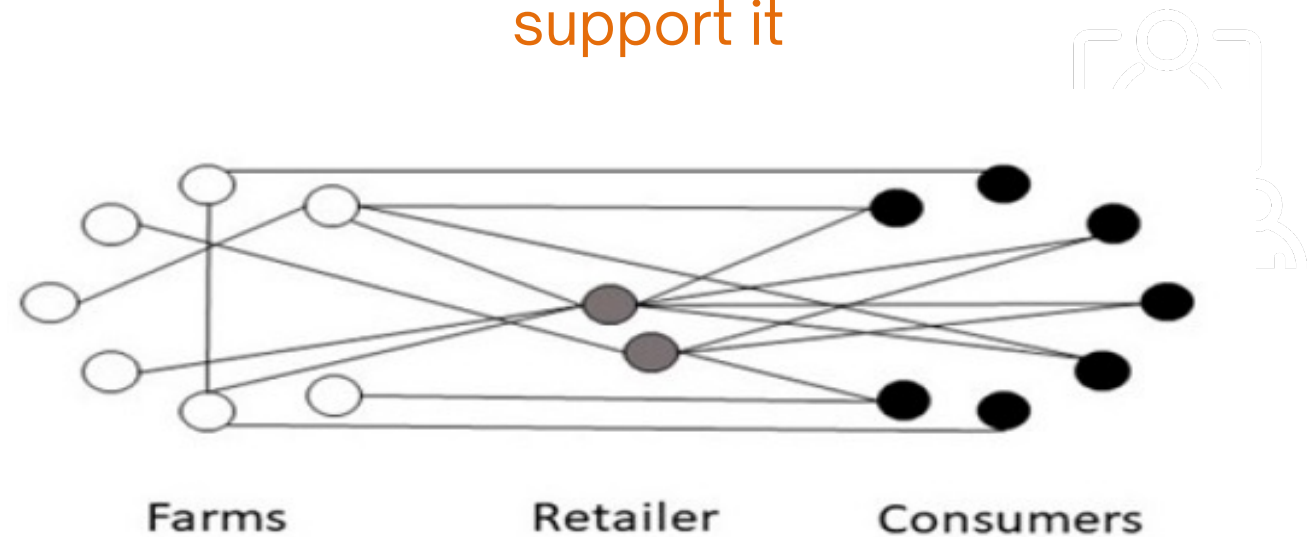
AFN Chain

Shorter supply chain (farmers markets, restaurants...).

The products hold significant value to the consumer.

Relation between AFN and Agroecology

Alternative food network is a part of agroecology and can support it



01

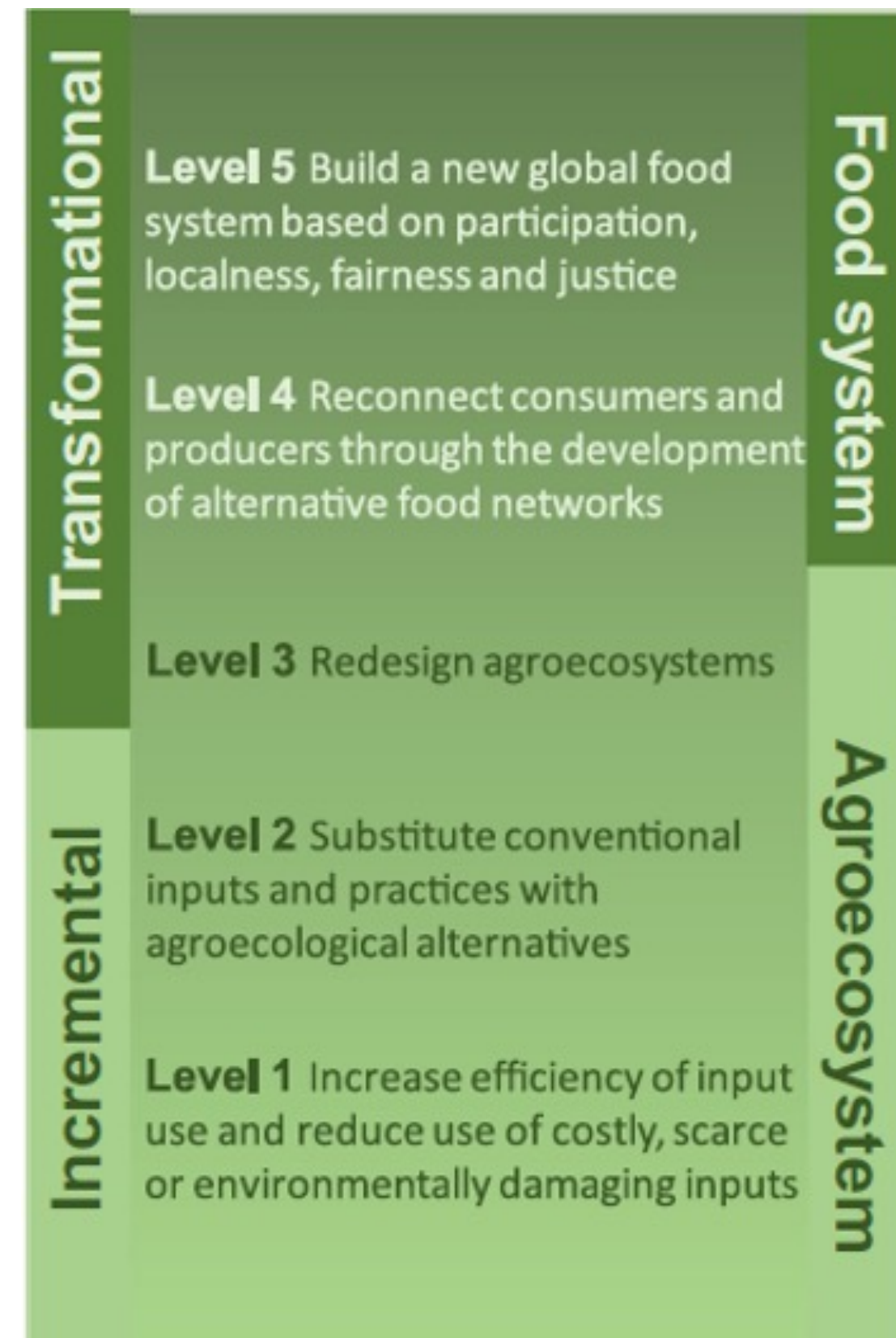
Both AFNs and agroecology emphasize the importance of community involvement and empowerment.

02

AFNs and agroecology contribute to a cultural shift towards valuing local food, traditional knowledge, and sustainable practices.

03

Network is mobilized by the activists, the stakeholders in order to allow the transition from conventional to agroecology



Research questions

01



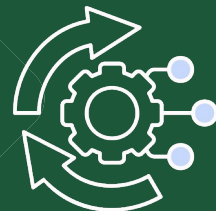
What kinds of AFNs can be found in Valle d'Aosta?

Who are the key actors promoting the AFNs?

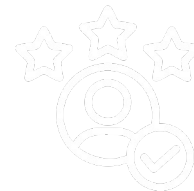


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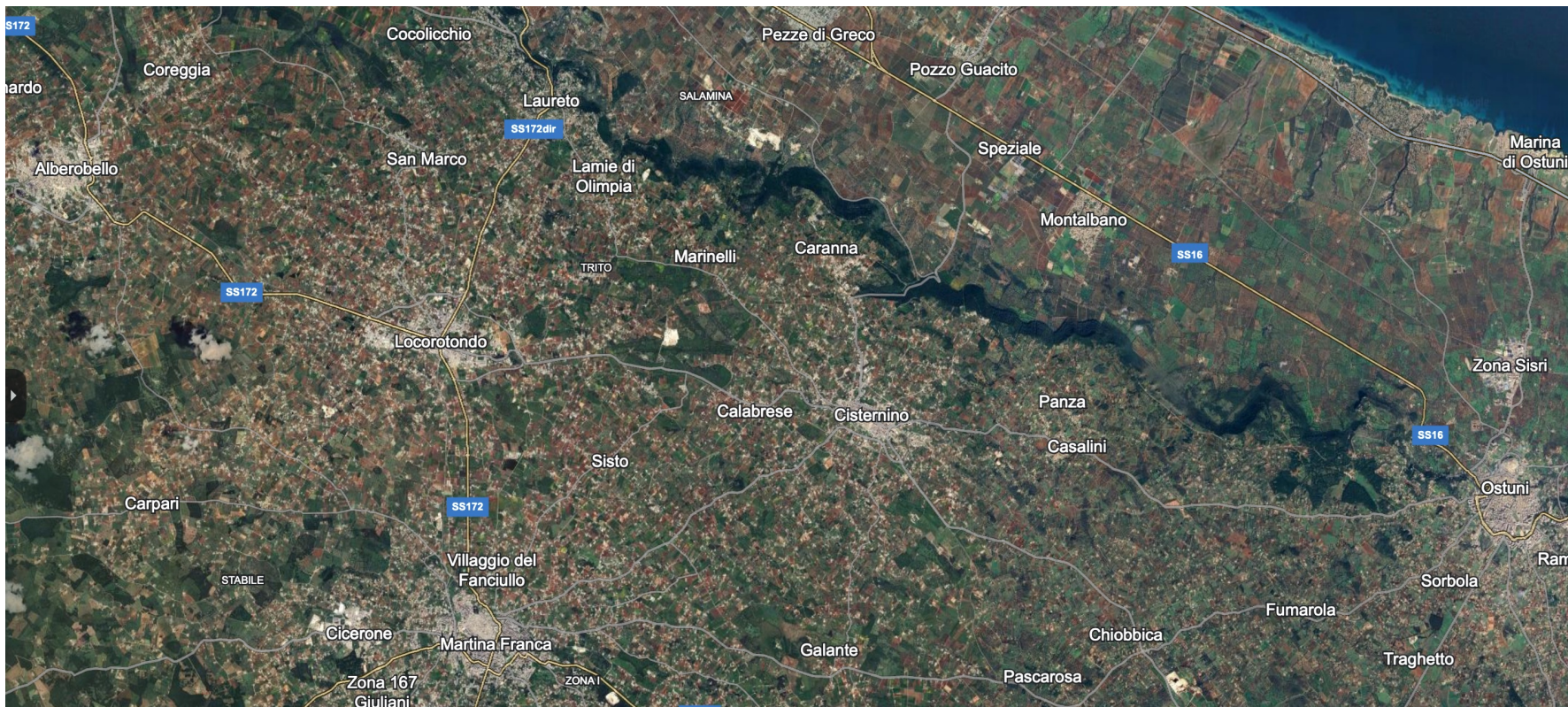
How AFNs are supporting an agroecological transition



Methodology

Case Study Area: Valle D'Itria

- High land, Hills Landscape
- Fragmented farms (< 1ha)
- Farming being a side activities for the communities, most of them left it because is not generating enough income.
- Tourism
- Trullis
- Cultural Heritage



The Activities

1. Meetings with Stakeholders

- Gianfranco Ciola (Director of Local Action Group Alto Salento): Seminar
- Tricarico and Spera (ConfCoop): Focus on Agricultural cooperatives
- Filippo De Miccolis (Farmer): Multifunctionality in agriculture

2. Field Visits & Observations



UPAL



Montemarcuccio -
Pietro & Antonio



Trulli Arco Antico - Rosa
Pinto



Transect in Valle
d'Itria - Pietro
Chiatante



GAL - Ornella Galasso
& Antonio Cardone



Masseria Madonna
dell'Arco - Giuseppe



Frantolio D'Amico -
Gianfranco Ciola



Casa degli
uccellini - Marilo

The Activities

3. Interaction with Experts

Dr. Jenny Calabrese & Dr. Daniele Magda



4. TeamWork

Analyzing and Reflecting on outcomes





What kinds of AFNs can be found in Valle d'Aosta



THE PRODUCTS

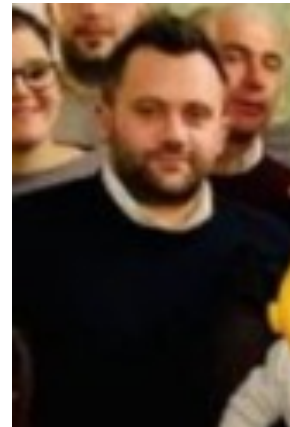
FARMERS



Montemarcuccuo farm



- Integrated farming: reducing chemical use
- High quality of the product
- The use of traditional varieties
- They have their own label



Masseria Madonna dell'Arco



- The whole supply chain is processed in the farm
- No use of antibiotics



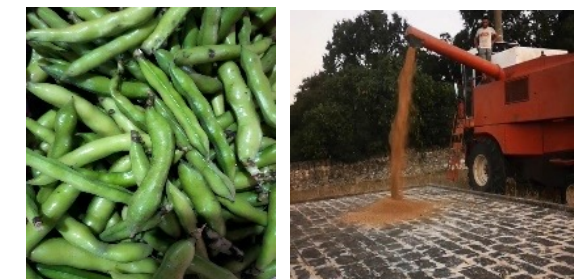
Il Frantolio di Pietro D'Amico



- Organic extra Virgin olive oil
- Circular economy
- High quality of the products
- Different ways of production: conventional and modern way
- Innovative products



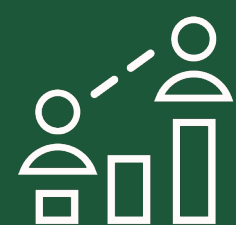
Casa degli uccellini



- Ecosystem services related to farm management: Didactic farm
- Integrated farming: rotation, no use chemicals
- Local varieties

AFN in Valle d'Itria

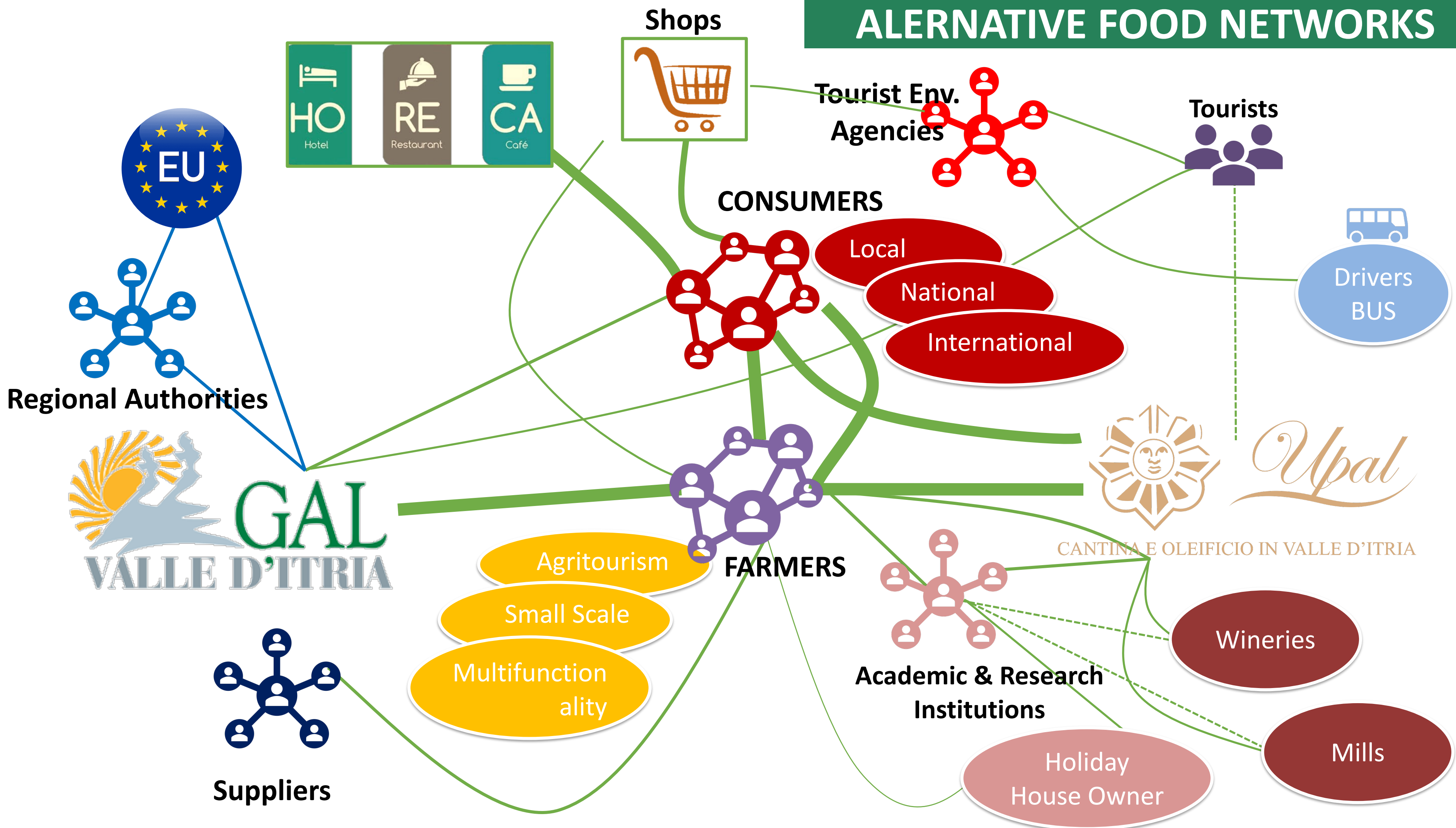
Actors	Face to face Direct interaction: producers - consumers.			Proximate Regional distribution: close geographic area			Extended Distribution over larger distance
	Farms Shops	Farmers Markets	E-commerce	Cooperatives	Community Supported Agriculture	Local shops (bars, restaurants, hotels, pharmacies...)	Certification Labels
Montemarcucc- -uio farm	✕		✕	✕		✕	✕
Masseria Madonna dell'Arco	✕		✕	✕		✕	
Il Frantolio di Pietro D'Amico	✕		✕			✕	✕
Casa degli uccellini	✕		✕		✕		
UPAL		✕	✕	✕	✕		✕
GAL		✕	✕		✕		
	+++	+	++++	++	++	++	++



Who are the key actors promoting the AFNs



ALTERNATIVE FOOD NETWORKS



The Actors

Actors	Order	Justification
Farmers	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investment in Quality: They invest their time and money in the product.• Transition to Agroecology• Added Value: To integrate into AFNs, farmers add value to their product through: Organic Certification - Sustainable Methods - Innovative Practices
Consumers: Local, national, international	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consumer Demand: Without consumers, products won't be sold in the market.• Consumer-Driven AFN: The growth of Alternative Food Networks (AFNs) is fuelled by consumer needs and desires, such as Diverse Dietary Choices (seeking a variety of options, including organic and locally sourced foods)
Agricultural Cooperative: UPAL	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Market Access: empowering farmers and producers to reach a wider audience• Sustainable Practices: AFNs prioritize sustainable methods, including: Reduced Chemical Use - Traditional Practices - Natural Cultivation

The Actors

Actors	Order	Justification
Local Action Group: GAL	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raising Awareness• Supporting Entrepreneurship: By assisting startups and existing businesses operating within AFNs, we help them establish themselves and thrive, fostering a vibrant and diverse local food ecosystem.
EU and Puglia region authorities	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial Support• Sustainability Guidance: AFNs provide guidance and resources to help startups produce sustainable and high-quality products, ensuring a long-term viability.
Food hubs and distributors	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Farm-to-Table• Local Product Showcase: AFNs introduce consumers to unique, locally sourced products, promoting regional flavors and supporting local economies.
Research and academic institutions	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research and Innovation: AFNs invest in research, development, and innovative practices to create added value in their products, ensuring they meet the evolving needs and preferences of consumers.




How AFNs are supporting an agroecological transition



AFN promoting Agroecology

Actor	AFN	How it promotes agroecology
GAL	Farmers Market Knowledge exchange events Community support agriculture	Building trust between consumers and producers Raising Awareness
UPAL	Community support agriculture Raising awareness among the actors Reducing external inputs Local shop	Support economic and territorial needs Creating marketing opportunities for Farmers Shortening supply chain supports local agriculture
Masseia Madonna dell'Acro	Diverse products Farm-to-Table (Restaurant) Local shop Reducing external inputs	Continuous innovation of products Ensures fresh, locally sourced ingredients and supports local agriculture. Synergy
Il Frantolio D'Amico	Diverse products Hands on activates and tours Online shops Reducing external inputs	Encourage innovation of products Economic diversification Raising awareness Shortening the supply chain
Montemarcuccio	Diverse products Using traditional varieties Reducing external inputs	Encouraging innovation Supports local agriculture.
Casa Degli Uccellini	Diverse products Online shop Hands on activities and workshops	Encouraging innovation Supports local agriculture and shortening supply chain Raising awareness



Key Lessons

Agroecological transition is an important process which need the integration of various actors and stakeholders that have strong commitment on it, like in the case of Valle d'Itria.

AFNs are playing a significant role in practicing principles and elements of agro-ecological transition.

Co-creation of knowledge, synergy, social value and diets, diversification and participation are the most practiced principles.



Recommendations

To support more alternative food networks and agroecological transition.

Focus on promoting crop diversification.

Fostering more collaborative partnerships.

Providing regular training and education.

Advocating for supportive policies, and encouraging knowledge sharing among stakeholders.

These action can help address different challenges such as worker shortage, economic interests, market competition, discontinuity of partners, and specialization on limited crops, leading to a more sustainable and resilient food system

THANK YOU

