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GASTRONOMY AT THE CROSSROAD OF ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Toward the
International
Society for
Gastronomic
Sciences and
Studies

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ORAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Animal welfare, One Health and development of fragile areas. Reflections starting from the comparison between two different Apennine areas

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ABSTRACT

The contribution focuses on two case studies in progress in the Alexandrian Apennines (on the border between Piedmont, Liguria and Emilia) and in Garfagnana (on the border between Tuscany and Emilia), as part of a project that sees the collaboration of researchers (veterinary epidemiologists, sociologists and anthropologists), local administrators and actors in the zootechnical sector (breeders, professionals, health and animal welfare specialists from the public and private sectors). In this first analysis, attention was focused on cattle farms, paying particular attention to the dairy supply chain. The two areas have both similarities and differences. In particular, both are suffering phenomena of abandonment of the territory and a strong downsizing of farming activities. The first results of the comparison between the two case studies show the opportunity to integrate into the territories the actions and interventions aimed at promoting innovations related to animal welfare and health promotion with a local development strategy, which aims to enhance local quality production. One Health has the aim of developing the priorities for “an international and interdisciplinary approach” aimed at countering “the threats to the health of life on Earth” (WCS 2004). The welfare of animals in dairy cattle farms, in fact, is linked to a number of other dimensions such as, for example, prevention of infections and protection of animal safety, food safety, biosecurity, and reduction of environmental impact. It is therefore a very suitable field of application for experimenting and operating, according to the logic of the One Health approach, in an integrated framework that holds together human, animal and ecosystem health. It is a fundamental perspective for global health, but also an opportunity for local development and to combat the abandonment and depopulation of fragile territories and areas. Some breeders are already moving in this direction and consider it important to collect information in order to adapt to indications that perhaps anticipate the regulatory change or consumer requests, as demonstrated, for example, by the movement, born among breeders, which some years ago promoted the manifesto for an “Ethical Breeding” (Ethical Breeding Association).

KEYWORDS

One health, Animal welfare, Local development, Italy