



Challenges for new entrants to farming and the role of public support: comparing Northern and Southern European agriculture

New Deal – Innovation Seminar

MONTE – Desenvolvimento Alentejo Central, ACE
Bilateral Cooperation | EEA Grants



FUNDAÇÃO
CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN
CIDADANIA ATIVA



INTRODUCTION

New Deal - Innovation is a Bilateral Cooperation Initiative, promoted by Monte, which includes the development of a seminar including a field visit in the rural areas of Central Alentejo. For the realization of this initiative we have the collaboration of two Norwegian research centers: Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research and Centre for Rural Research; the partnership of project "A New Deal for Youth Employment": ICAAM - Institute of Mediterranean Agrarian and Environmental Sciences (University of Évora), AJASUL - Association of young farmers, IEFP – Institute of Employment and Professional Training; and the special participation of the National Rural Network. The initiative aims to deepen contacts and knowledge between the agents of the two territories involved, enhancing the results in the promotion of employability and youth entrepreneurship in rural areas; promote the exchange of experience and good practice between the promoter and the entities of the donor countries.

The project A New Deal for Youth Employment is focused on the D domain activities, supporting employability and inclusion of young people, of Active Citizenship Program – EEAGRANTS, with an action that seeks to contribute to the further development of civil society and institutional capacity to intervene in the area of social inclusion of young people, particularly through strengthening the employability of young people in Central Alentejo region. The project aims to contribute to employability of young people in the agricultural sector, in a perspective of economic and social dynamics of rural areas.

The seminar New Deal - Innovation promotes the discussion on the evolution and current context of agriculture in Portugal and Norway, with particular attention to the structures and public support given to young people starting up in the agricultural sector. This cooperation initiative promotes a debate for better understanding the constraints and opportunities of young farmer entrepreneurs in Southern Europe; the comparison with the Northern European context; the exchange of best practices for the promotion of employability and entrepreneurship of young people in rural territories; and a possible collaboration for future projects.

The bilateral cooperation initiative is held with the support of Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein through the EEA Grants under the Active Citizenship Programme, managed by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

AGENDA | PROGRAMME

22nd September 2015

9.30	Receção Registration
	Boas Vindas <i>Welcome</i> Apresentação do projeto “A New Deal for Youth Employment” Project Presentation
9.50	Caracterização do Sector Agrícola no Alentejo – <i>Olga Passanha, AJASUL</i> Characterization of the Agricultural Sector in Alentejo
10.10	O Sistema silvo-pastoril: o caso do Montado Português - <i>Teresa Pinto Correia, ICAAM</i> Silvo-pastoral systems on the edge: questions faced by land managers in the Portuguese Montado
10.30	A inovação nos setores agrícola e florestal e nas zonas rurais - uma prioridade para o desenvolvimento rural - <i>Maria de São Luís Centeno, Rede Rural Nacional - DGADR</i> Innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas - a priority for rural development
10.50	Debate
11.10	Coffee break
11.30	Contribuição para a Empregabilidade: Diversificação de serviços na Agricultura – <i>Marta Alter, Monte</i> Contributions to Employability - Diversification of services in the agricultural sector
11.50	Garantia Jovem - uma nova abordagem para o desemprego Jovem – <i>Nuno Miguel Alas, IEFP</i> Youth Guarantee – a new approach to youth unemployment
12.10	Debate
12.30	Pausa para almoço Lunch
14.00	Agricultura na Noruega - situação atual e tendências - <i>Wendy Fjellstad, NIBIO</i> Agriculture in Norway – status and trends
14.20	Agricultura na Noruega - Inovação ou tradição - ou ambos? - <i>Wenche Dramstad, NIBIO</i> Norwegian agriculture – innovations or traditions – or both?
14.40	O papel do conhecimento e competência no desenvolvimento da agricultura. Caso: Sistema de conhecimento, políticas e instrumentos de apoio para a educação e formação dos agricultores e serviços de consultoria na agricultura norueguesa - <i>Egil Petter Stræte, Centre Rural Research</i> The role of knowledge and competence in development of agriculture. Case: Knowledge system, policies and supporting instruments for education and training for farmers and advisory service in Norwegian agriculture
15.00	Debate — O que podemos aprender com estes casos? What can we learn from these cases?
15.30	Conclusão dos trabalhos Closing remarks – <i>Teresa Pinto Correia, ICAAM</i>
16.00	Visita a Évora Visit to Évora

23rd September 2015

9.15	Ponto de Encontro Meeting Point
10.00	Vista do Castelo de Montemor-o-Novo Castle View
11.00	Herdade do Freixo do Meio Ambiente, biodiversidade e agricultura biológica Environment, Biodiversity and Organic Farming Projetos Independentes da HFM Independent HFM Projects Produtos frescos, transformados e conservas Fresh, processed and canned Products
	Pausa para o Almoço Lunch
15.20	Conclusão e Encerramento Conclusions and Closure of the Meeting – <i>Teresa Pinto Correia, ICAAM</i>
15.30	Retorno a Évora Return

PARTICIPANTS AND ABSTRACTS



Olga Ramalho Passanha, AJASUL

Title of presentation

Characterization of the Agricultural Sector in Alentejo

Alentejo is a territory with a history marked by a rich patrimony and culture, where we detach products of recognized excellence such as olive oil, wine, cork, gastronomy and handicraft. In agriculture it is a region marked by the agricultural policies adopted since 2005 which did not support financing for production hence have contributed for the extension of the productive system and for a reduction of cereal areas and other temporary crops, as well as for the raise of permanent meadows and pastures and, therefore, of cattle and swine.

Degree in Agricultural Engineering, Scientific/Technological branch, and Postgraduate in Olive Growing, Olive Oil and Table Olives.

General Director of AJASUL. Head of Delegation of Évora; Responsible for Land Parcelling room; Coordinator and Technical Orders Help INGA and Agri-Environmental; Vocational Training coordinator; trainer; Coordination, Investment Projects AGRO and AGRIS. From 1999 to 2008 executive at the Regional Directorate of Agriculture and Fisheries of Alentejo.



Teresa Pinto Correia, ICAAM, Universidade de Évora

Title of presentation

Silvo-pastoral systems on the edge: questions faced by land managers in the Portuguese Montado

The Iberian silvo-pastoral systems, the Montado in Portugal and the Dehesa in Spain, are characterized by an open tree cover of cork and holm oaks, in changing densities, combined with more or less intensive pastures in the under-cover, in large scale farm units (estates). They are extensive systems combining farming and forestry, and result in a very particular landscape, which occupies over 1M hectares in Southern Portugal and over 3 M in Southern Spain. Even in recent changes in farm systems have led to radical land use transformations in the region of Alentejo in the last decades, the Montado is still in this region, the dominant land use system and the most paradigmatic component of its landscape. These landscapes are today valued not only for their agricultural production, but increasingly also for their role as providers of multiple landscape services, related both with nature conservation and environmental quality, and with the recreation, quality of living, cultural identity and aesthetical appreciation. There is thus an increasingly interaction between three sets of

drivers of change in these landscapes: production, consumption and protection. And new tensions emerge, which are often reflected in mismatches between landscape functions and the landscape structure, and between the societal demand for goods and services, at the landscape level, and the provision of these goods and services, at the farm level. For the land owners, the new demands for these landscapes create new challenges: the Montado is still managed for the most according to traditional practices – but both economic and policy drivers create pressures for specialization and intensification, while society expectations creates pressures for the maintenance of an extensive paradigm.

The understanding of the interaction of different drivers, and the way they affect the land owners management options, calls for new research approaches, where combined methods are applied. By this, new insights are created that may also support strategy making and decisions to be taken at different governance scales. Addressing the questions faced by land managers and the conflicts in decision making they need to solve, can contribute to a more clear understanding of the processes that today shape the Montado landscape.

Teresa Pinto-Correia is Associate Professor in Geography, at the Department of Landscape Environment and Planning, and head of the Institute of Mediterranean Agrarian and Environmental Sciences, both at the University of Évora (Portugal). Her research is on the dynamics of agricultural landscapes in the Mediterranean, their provisioning of multiple functions, and the decision making process at different scales, for the management of these landscapes, in particular the landscapes.



Marta Maria de Albuquerque Alter, MONTE

Title of presentation

Contributions to Employability - Diversification of services in the agricultural sector

Monte's experience on Sub-program 3 PRODER/LEADER approach, results achieved, jobs created and some examples of projects supported on diversification of services in rural area.

Degree in Economics. MsC in Urban and Regional Planning. Specialization degree in Development Cooperation. Since April 1997 lives and works in Alentejo as Technical Director of MONTE, organization responsible for the sub-program 3 of PRODER/Leader approach; project and teams, strategic planning and management, monitoring of rural development policies and development cooperation. Between 1987 and 1997 held various positions in public government, particularly in the direction of the current Financial Services Portugal Tourism IP. For four years was assistant Professor in financial calculation of Hotel Management degree at Lusíada University, and other several tourism courses at CECOIA and Hotel School of Lisbon.



Nuno Miguel Alas, Centro de Emprego e Formação Profissional de Évora, IEFP

Title of presentation

Youth Guarantee – a new approach to youth unemployment

EU countries endorsed the principle of the Youth Guarantee in April 2013. Since then, IEFP, the Public Service of Employment in Portugal, has developed measures to tackling youth unemployment, under 29.

This new approach, adapted to each individual need and situation, aims to offer a job, apprenticeship, traineeship, or continued education to every NEET.

Employment and Professional Training Centre of Évora - Director (Regional Delegation of Alentejo). Associate degree advisor to the employment and Training Institute (IEFP) MSc in Management (Specialization in Human Resources), and a degree in Sociology (University of Évora).

Since 2000 holds a position as executive at IEFP (Regional Office) in the area of Human Resources (Personnel, Capacity Building and Organizational Development). Professor at the Institute of Social Work in Beja at the Graduate Course "Conception, Management and Assessment of Social Projects", trainer. External evaluator of FACE program - Agents Training Facilitators Employability



Wendy Fjellstad, NIBIO - Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research

Title of presentation:

Agriculture in Norway – status and trends

Agriculture in Norway – status and trends Norway is a country with difficult conditions for agriculture. Just 3% of the total land area is cultivated, and food security is therefore an issue of national concern. It is difficult for Norwegian food production to compete on the international market and Norwegian farmers are therefore subsidised by the state and protected through import controls. This presentation will give a glimpse of different agricultural landscapes in Norway and the changes that have occurred in agriculture and agricultural landscapes.

Research Scientist at NIBIO. Bachelor degree in Biology from University of Southampton, England. PhD. in Landscape Ecology from Durham University.

Area of work: Monitoring and analysis of landscape change in agricultural landscapes; research on driving forces and impacts of landscape change.

Speciality: Development and calculation of indicators related to landscape change.



Wenche Elisabeth Dramstad, NIBIO - Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research

Title of presentation:

Norwegian agriculture – innovations or traditions – or both?

While limited in terms of options for growing field crops, Norway has multiple other natural resources. Historically Norwegian farms have not given sufficient income to the farming families. Thus, household income has been supplemented through other labour, either based on own resources in forest and outfields/waters or in income generating work off farm for farmer as well as family members. This pluriactivity has been a stable strategy, and still is on many farms. The details of the non-farm activities have changed, however. Also needed to mention in the context of Norwegian farm economy is the Norwegian agricultural subsidies. These are not focused entirely on production, but are also designed to support e.g. the management of landscape amenity values. Further, to help promote innovation is important in Norwegian agriculture, and for this funds are available through an organization called Innovation Norway. Some examples of these efforts to strengthen and help develop Norwegian agriculture will be presented in this talk.

Wenche Dramstad has an MSc in Management of Natural Resources and PhD in Landscape Ecology from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences. She is a senior research scientist and head of the Landscape monitoring section at the Norwegian Institute for Bioeconomy Research – formerly the Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute. She has worked with research in and documentation of state and change of agricultural landscapes since 1990. Among responsibilities has been the development of the Norwegian monitoring programme for agricultural landscapes, in particular the development and use of indicators of biodiversity, cultural history and recreational potential, including visual landscape assessment and access to the landscape.



Egil Petter Stræte, Centre Rural Research

Title of presentation:

The role of knowledge and competence in development of agriculture. Case: Knowledge system, policies and supporting instruments for education and training for farmers and advisory service in Norwegian agriculture.

To achieve a political objective like increase the food production and to meet the challenge of climate change, challenges related both knowledge and innovation in agriculture are formidable. In order to transfer this ambition and the accumulated scientific knowledge produced into farmers' practice, there is a need for better knowledge and competence on how transfer and adoption of knowledge works. There is a great need for relevant and accessible knowledge for the farmer, as the basis for informed practice in agriculture. There is also a need to know how knowledge is selected, adapted and turned into practical knowing in an interaction between knowledge operators like advisory or extension services. There is a challenge to make use of formal academic knowledge in relation to the farmers' experience based knowledge. Farmers' competence rests not only with the farmers and their practice, but comprises the whole knowledge and innovation system in agriculture. This system may be described as stable actor networks which support agricultural innovation and learning, comprising, for example, researchers and advisory services and progressive farmers. This presentation include a conceptual framework for a study of the farmers' interaction with supporting actors in the agricultural knowledge and innovation system.

Egil Petter Stræte is an agricultural economist from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences. He holds a doctoral degree in economic geography from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. Stræte has experience from research and development work in the areas of food-related restructuring and organisation of innovation in firms and organisations; structural changes and power in food supply chains; rural development; joint farming; rural tourism etc. His work has concentrated mainly on the food sector, with a particular emphasis on the milk sector. His general research interests are related to business development, regional development, rural development, and agriculture. Stræte was Director of the Centre for Rural Research from March 2008 till October 2013.

HERDADE DO FREIXO DO MEIO



Herdade do Freixo do Meio ¹is a farm in Alentejo that manages 650ha of oak and holm-oak plantation, near Montemor-o-Novo, totally converted into the Biological Production Mode since 2001.

In the fulfilment of its mission, based on exigence, transparency, knowledge and innovation, Freixo do Meio farm has elected the Organic Agriculture (Reg. EC 2092/91, altered) as a means to approach the challenge of exploiting the “Montado” in an efficient way.

In Freixo do Meio farm are bread black pigs from Alentejo breed, merino lambs, kid goats from serpentina breed and black turkeys, all outdoors and at the rhythm of nature. All breeds are indigenous, and the breeders are registered in the respective genealogical books. These animals are totally certified as organic products and are cut, transformed and packed in the meat transformation unit that exists in Freixo do Meio farm.



¹ In www.herdadedofreixodomeio.com

The Freixo do Meio farm has been developing an activity of promotion of the country life and of the practice of sustainable agriculture, in respect of the existing natural resources and cycles of nature. Indifferent to the hegemony of the market and to the maximization of immediate results, it seeks an economical sustainability together with the effective practice of social and environmental policies. Freixo do Meio places high value on knowledge and on the efficiency of the processes, on the constant and progressive reduction of its ecological footprint through the production in an Organic Production Mode, on the decrease of the meat production, on the resource to local products or on the decrease of distribution distances. It looks to contribute to a new energetic order based on the local energy production and on the progressive independency of fossil oil.



Freixo do Meio farm tries to manage the ecosystem of the oak-plantation in a responsible way, respecting its vocation for multifunctionality and complexity. This way, besides having different species of animals and vegetables (according to the most adequate time of the year), on the farm these raw materials are transformed into meats of different cuts, sausages and smoked meat, different preparations, but also are prepared fourth range vegetables (soups and cut and pre-washed salads), red pepper paste, traditional preserved olives, olive oil, olive paste, as well as other products like soap, rice, cork, wood, wool, acorn ham, cereals, grain legumes, flours and brans, lard, eggs, simple or transformed lamb skins, pine nuts, mushrooms, wild berries, which all together constitute a range of food based on the Mediterranean diet that allow to re-establish the true place of food as a link between man and nature.

The Montado ecosystem of the oak-plantation also allows us to offer a range of services in the scope of the education towards sustainability, that include our traditional visit to Freixo do Meio, as well as pedestrian walks on our marked route (using international signing) and that can also be taken by bicycle (people have to bring their own), donkey rides, training sessions or an excellent lunch of traditional cozido cooked in clay pots on camp fires using the organic products produced in the farm. There is the possibility of accompanying our activity more closely through our newsletter “a folha do Freixo”, on facebook and through our blog.