

Sustainable Agriculture, Biodiversity Protection, and Fair Trade: Together against poverty

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Abstract

The objectives of the project were to mobilize and inform the European public opinion and citizenship regarding the importance of development issues through the implementation of sustainable agriculture, biodiversity protection, and the promotion of fair trade, within strategies to fight poverty and hunger. It also aimed to provide additional information on the interdependence approach between the North and South in fighting poverty in developing countries, according to the new European cooperation policies and the UN MDGs resolutions. Furthermore, the project promotes a European Permanent Observatory, with the purpose of sharing and sustaining the experiences and knowledge of all organizations and institutions involved in these issues. The observatory would first, and foremost coordinate a network of European NGOs and organizations that promote and manage actions of international cooperation in the fields of biodiversity protection, sustainable forms of agriculture, and fair trade. An ad hoc website will host all of the observatory's contributions in two official European languages (Italian and English).

The fight against poverty implies many other important aspects of sustainable development: enhancing and upgrading the domestic and international market access through certification procedures, undertaking appropriate policies and techniques for food production and food distribution, and protecting food sovereignty, etc.

Beneficiaries include journalists, producers, cooks/chefs, teachers, fair trade operators, NGOs, boys and girls between 7 and 14 years, families and consumers, and the general public.

The main activities are: coordination of activities of organizations working at the European level operating on the issues of the project; organizing information events and debates and the publication and dissemination of information materials in Europe and in some countries of the South; arranging educational activities for students; and providing information and training activities for fair trade operators and consumers.

Main results

Groups of opinion leaders and of citizens and students are informed about the project themes and are able to spread the messages received to other groups of Europeans. A European Permanent Observatory with a website on the issues of sustainable agriculture, biodiversity protection, and fair trade against poverty has been realized and are operational. A package of information activities on issues concerning sustainable agriculture, biodiversity protection, and the fair trade was created, and fair trade operators are now more informed. As a result, the project has achieved increased capacity and awareness, and the public is informed about these issues.

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