

# Farming in Sicily's Lands of Biosphere

## Biodiversity and good agricultural practice in the “Terre della Biosfera”

### Final project report



The project has been conducted by Giacche Verdi Bronte (GV) in synergy with the Manfred-Hermsen-Stiftung (MHS), LIPU Italy, U.I.A. Bronte (Inter-municipal Agriculture Office of the Sicily Region), the University of Catania (Departments of Agriculture and Economics) and NABU Germany. It was developed as a continuation of the German BMU-funded EUKI project 'Frutti per la Biosfera', in view of the new CAP funding period 2023-26. The project aims to research and identify the best agricultural practices for the promotion of biodiversity in the Mediterranean agro-ecosystem, specifically for fruit and olive production.

**While expressing our sincere gratitude to all our partners, we believe that important results have been achieved from this project!**

#### **Our main achievements are:**

A contribution to the EU discussion of the new CAP period with a letter of the 100 small farmers, who participated in our investigation (Annex 7.1).

Our final questionnaire analyses, insights and recommendations, addressed to the Region of Sicily (Annexes 3.2.1 and 6.1), may have influenced the current subsidy politics: Biodiversity supporting sub-measures of the Sicilian Regional Strategic Plan were developed after our project results were sent in March 2022 (Annex 8). We are satisfied that new incentives for farmers working in a nature-friendly way, using traditional crops and caring for biodiversity have been promoted by the Sicilian Region, in line with what was suggested by this project.

Beside this, we sensitized the farming partners and a general public by the huge number of private discussions during questioning farmers and citizens and by our public conference.

**The following activities and documents were fulfilled and produced:**

1. Formation and information work. The biggest event was a public conference with about 80 participants in Bronte on 18<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2019.  
→ Annex 1 / 1.1 / 1.2 / 1.3
2. Analysis of the Sicilian PSR (Rural development programme)  
→ Annex 2
3. Interviews of 100 small holder farmers and first survey  
→ Annex 3 / 3.1 / 3.2
4. Interviews of more than XXXX citizens via online formular  
→ Annex 4 / 4.1 / 4.2 / 4.2.1
5. A dominance–based Rough set approach for environmental sustainability of the project area  
→ Annex 5 / 5.1
6. Final analysis of the farmer’s and citizens’ interviews  
→ Annex 6 / 6.1
7. A joint letter from our farm partners to the EU commission during the planning phase of the new agricultural politics, which also got an answer  
→ Annex 7 / 7.1 / 7.2
8. Recommendations to the new Sicilian PSR (Rural development programme)  
→ Annex 8 / 8.1
  
9. Evaluation of the project influence on the PSR Sicilia  
→ Annex 9
10. Intermedia project report from GV  
→ Annex 10

Again, we thank all our project partners for their different inputs! We would be glad, if this work will be used by our partners and contribute to future discussions about the European agriculture politics.

**Montagno Biagio  
Giacche Verdi Bronte  
Bronte, 20.2.23**