

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

Questions to assess the degree of acceptance and use of European agricultural funds and the perception of the value of biodiversity by the sample farms

PART 1 – Specific questions about the farms

- 1) Location of the holding
 - a) Province: **CT/ Municipality of Bronte/Contr. Difesa**
 - b) Height from sea level: **900m**
- 2) Soil type: **volcanic**
- 3) Total ground area: **in total 6 hectar**
- 4) Form of conduct
 - a) Properties, **4** hectare
 - b) Rent, **3** hectare (**but given by relatives nearby**)
 - c) Other (specify) _____ hectare
- 5) Way of production around your farm:
 - (a) certified organic: **We’re working biologically but I don’t think it’s certified**
 - b) traditional (no pesticides and chemical fertilizers): **Yes, extensive grazing**
 - (c) integrated farming
 - (d) conventional
- 6) What is the main and predominant crop in your area? **All pasture**
- 7) Farm production method (indicate one): **B**
 - a) certified organic: **no**
 - b) traditional (no pesticides and chemical fertilizers): **I don’t use any pesticides or fertilizers**
 - c) integrated
 - d) conventional
- 8) If organic/traditional holding:
 - a) Since when is it organic and how was it managed before? **Since always traditional**
 - b) Has the conversion to organic brought cultivation and/or commercial benefits to the farm? measuring from 1 (not very important) to 5 (very important) for bio conversion _____ and/or marketing _____?

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	little	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	low	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	high	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	a lot
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- 9) Types and areas of cultivation:
 - a) What is the primary business crop? **Meadow for sheep** (hectare)
 - b) What are the secondary ones? _____ (hectare)
 - c) Do you transform them? If so, what do you get? **no**
 - d) What is the secondary cultivation (for domestic consumption) on the farm and what area do they occupy? **small home vegetable garden**
- 10) Are there any animals on the farm? **11 cows**
- 11) Any endangered species of animals, local or ancient varieties (plants and animals) ? **Some crosses of the old breed.**

- 12) What do you produce? **Milk, in the moment (may) 100-120 litre a day (0,40€ per litre)**
- a) How do you transform it? **no**
- 13) Do you have easy access to the seeds you're interested in? **I don't sow**
If so, are they already treated with chemicals when you buy them? YES NO
- 14) How do you deal with watering? What kind do you use and how often? **I don't water**
- 15) What happens to your waste products? (indicate one) **A**
- a) **Buried in the ground**
- b) Burned
- c) Used for compost production
- d) Used for energy production (biomass, etc.)
- e) Other (specify) _____
- 16) Can you tell us the type and frequency of plant protection and fertilization treatments?
- a) Use of pesticides (average frequency on your farm)
- Every day
 - 1 time a week
 - 1 time per month (more than 10 treatments per year)
 - 1 time every three months (4 treatments per year)
 - 1 time every six months (2 treatments per year)
 - 1 time per year
 - No treatment
- b) fertilization treatments
- Every day
 - 1 time a week
 - 1 time per month (more than 10 treatments per year)
 - 1 time every three months (4 treatments. per year)
 - 1 time every six months (2 treatments per year)
 - 1 time per year
 - No fertilizer
- 17) Do you do any sort of public work? **no**
- a) Agricultural tourism
- b) Educational activity on your farm
- c) Direct sale on the farm
- d) Other (specify) _____
- 18) How do you market your products? (individual percentages of total production sold)
- a) direct sale on the farm **is taken to the farm** _____ %
- b) short supply chain (e.g. markets) _____ %
- c) wholesale market _____ %
- d) through Cooperatives _____ %
- e) through traders _____ %
- 19) What are your thoughts on the price formation of agricultural products?: **it must cost AT LEAST 60-70 cents per litre. Calves aren't worth much. For 500kg calf I get maybe 500-600€**
- a) Do you consider the current level of prices at the origin of agricultural products to be satisfactory? **no**
- b) Which of these actions do you believe supports prices of agricultural products and related farmer incomes:
- Presence of the double price on the label - ORIGIN/DETAIL
 - Definition of minimum prices for agricultural products
 - Definition of national production quotes in order to balance the supply and demand of agricultural products that allow prices to remain stable under normal conditions.

- Promotion of short supply chains with tools that encourage and facilitate direct sales: **yes, that would be good, first the milk should be turned into cheese. I used to have a dairy.**
- Creation and/or diffusion of forms of partnership between agricultural producers that allow to create coordinated offers that match with the demand: **Here corporation doesn't work. Maybe other types of corporation, but not in the agriculture sector.**
- Application of blockchain to agricultural supply chains (traceability and control of information throughout the supply chain)
- Other (please specify) _____

PART 2 – Questions about contributions

- 1) In which area of your business would you need financial aid by the European Union? **A, B, E**
 - a) Production: **To buy for example hay for the six months of winter. Where should I get all the money from to buy hay and feed? I could have more cows but in the winter time there aren't enough meadows. It also would be better for the animals, less tiring, if they could stay inside in a barn in the winter and eat hay and feed.**
 - b) Transformation: **Yes, I wanted to reopen the dairy. But they gave me an estimate to bring it up to the newest standards and it costs around 70.000€. I don't have that kind of money.**
 - c) Marketing
 - d) Agricultural risk insurance
 - e) Income maintenance
 - f) Other(pleasespecify) _____
- 2) Does your farm receive funds from the Common Agricultural Policy (Pillar I)? **No, since eleven years I don't take them.**
 - a) If Yes, indicate which:
 - Application for direct payments
 - Agri-environment-climate payments
 - Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints
 - I don't know which
 - Basic payment
 - Greening
 - Payments for young farmers: **We asked for support for my son, but you had to advance 10.000€ which had to be returned, but we don't have that money.**
 - Coupled support (indicate type of crop)
 - Common organisation of the markets (COM)
Indicate Sector: **no**
 - Other (please specify): **If I sell milk or calves, I have to pay taxes, but if there is damage, the state doesn't help.**
 - b) If not. Because?
 - I don't know them
 - The farm is too small
 - I've never been interested in it.
 - Too much bureaucracy
 - Other (please specify): **Once I had the farm's title to get contributions, they took it away from me, why? - only they know. I submitted the application too late once... You know what: Years ago, when I got my last suckler cow premium, I got an allotment of 9€! There was an explanation: There was 650€ to give and they subtracted 250 for one reason, 150 for another..., result: 9€! I used to get 2000€ per**

year. Then they reduced it to 1500€. Then to 1000, then 500, then zero. I don't ask for anything anymore.

- 3) How important are EU funds in your farm's economy? To what extent from a value from 1 (not very important) to 5 (very important) ? **5 in theory! The help from the EU would be very important to continue.**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	little	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	low	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	high	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	a lot
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- 4) Have you joined the RDP Measures in the past (before the present programming) ? YES NO

a) If so, to which? _____

b) If not, why not? _____

- 5) Have you joined the RDP Measures during this programming period (2014-2020)? **no**

a) If so, which? _____

b) If not, why not? A lot of money always has to be advanced and the projects still do not go ahead. Only large entrepreneurs are always approved for large projects of a few million euros in a way. You take what you get! We are not interested in anyone.

- 6) What are the main difficulties in accessing RDP funds? For each reason give a value between 1 (not very difficult) and 5 (very difficult)?

a) Difficulties in business planning: **5**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	little	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	low	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	high	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	a lot
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b) Support of trained designers: **5**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	little	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	low	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	high	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	a lot
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c) knowledge of opportunities/options: **5**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	little	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	low	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	high	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	a lot
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d) Regional bureaucracy: **5**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	little	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	low	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	high	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	a lot
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e) Matching with call access requirements: **I don't know the announcements.**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	little	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	low	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	high	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	a lot
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f) Other (please specify): **Too risky**

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1 little 2 low 3 medium 4 high 5 a lot

7) What are the main advantages of access to RDP funds? For each reason give a value between 1(little/no advantage) and 5 (very/large advantages): **I don't participate.**

a) Support of investment processes

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	little	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	low	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	high	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	a lot
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b) Support for growth and innovation

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	little	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	low	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	high	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	a lot
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c) Opening of new markets

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	little	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	low	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	high	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	a lot
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d) Agro-industrial reconversion

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	little	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	low	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	high	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	a lot
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e) More options to improve environment and quality of life

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	little	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	low	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	high	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	a lot
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f) Making your business more supportive and integrated

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	little	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	low	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	high	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	a lot
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g) Implementing of certification and transparency

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	little	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	low	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	high	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	a lot
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h) Other(please specify)_____

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	little	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	low	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	high	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	a lot
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8) Do you get help from an external consultant in your decision to join RDP funds? **no**

a) If so by whom? (indicate one)

- Agronomist
- Agricultural expert

- Accountant
- Surveyor
- CAF (office for assistance and information, usually managed by trade unions).
- Other (please specify) _____

b) How important do you consider your role to be from 1(little) to 5 (very)? **5**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	little	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	low	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	high	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	a lot
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9) What measures do you think should be included in future planning and how important do you think they are from 1 (not very important) to 5 (very important)?

a) innovation projects: **5, my dream is to work with the milk/make cheese out of it and to sell it here – from producer to the consumer.**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	little	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	low	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	high	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	a lot
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b) sustainability, valorization of young people: **5, because it must also work for those who don't have money advance**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	little	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	low	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	high	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	a lot
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c) connection to the territory: **5, it would be good to sow and have more food for the animals, but now it is not worthwhile.**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	little	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	low	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	high	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	a lot
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d) bureaucratic simplification and supply chain vision: **5**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	little	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	low	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	high	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	a lot
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e) conservation of the environment and biodiversity: **5**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	little	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	low	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	high	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	a lot
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f) simplify the access to the offers: **5**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	little	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	low	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	high	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	a lot
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g) Other (please specify): **Give money to the small ones too! The big ones always get it and the small ones like me can die.**

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Not for now, but surely, if customers come here, because it's beautiful here, we can see the Etna, trees, flowers...so 5

1	little	2	low	3	medium	4	high	5	a lot
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- 4) Are you rewarded for maintaining a degree of naturalness in your farm? **no**
5) Do you think that the natural elements present on your farm are a direct advantage for your farm?
YES NO

If so, to what extent does it measure from 1(little/ no advantage) to 5 (very/large benefits)? **5: yes, everything is natural here, everything is healthy, there is a balance of nature, a chain that turns. Some animals do harm, but there is that eats mice, another one eats mosquitoes...**

1	little	2	low	3	medium	4	high	5	a lot
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- 6) Do you think the presence of biodiversity is an advantage for the marketing of your products? **No**
7) Do you apply any practices to promote the accumulation of humus? **No (cow manure)**
If so, which one?

- 8) Do you have soil erosion problems on your farm? **no**
If so, how do you try to solvethem?

- 9) Is the farm within a Natura 2000 Network Site? (SIC /ZPS) **in the parc of Etna**

- 10) Records of changes in farming practices amplified by climate change? **No, for my work they don't matter but sure, the climate has changed a little bit. We've had two to three months of snow in the winter and it's too hot in the summer. But it's not an advantage, nor is it a disadvantage.**

- 11) Have you seen any wild animals or plants on the farm? **Yes, the wild cat, the fox and snakes like the viper.**

- 12) Problematic species (herbs, insects): **no**

- 13) Have you heard of the "Lands of the Biosphere"("Terre della Biosfera") yet? **no**

- 14) Fill in the table below, evaluating (high, medium, low) the influence of crops on the aspects listed below for the area under consideration or in general for the Etna park.

ASPECTS:

- a1) role of cultivation on the economic, environmental and social sustainability of the territory
- a2) influence on the landscape
- a3) environmental pollution due to the conventional production method
- a4) alteration on the balance of the ecosystem with the adoption of the biological method
- a5) profitability expressed as their income (gross saleable production minus variable costs)
- a6) ability to influence the hydrogeological system in relation to climate change and hydrogeological risk
- a7) ability to maintain unaltered biodiversity

CROPS: specify in the table a type of crop prevalent in the area, considering that:

- by dried fruit is meant pistachio, almond, hazelnut, etc.;
- for citrus fruits we consider orange, lemon, clementines and mandarin;
- for the orchard reference is made to pear, apple, peaches, apricots, etc.

	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	
–	Rule within the territory's sustainability	Impact on village	Conventional agricultural pollution	ecosystem improvement with organic farming	profitability of crops (RL=plv-variable costs)	hydrogeological system influence	Cap ma bioc
X1 dried fruits ()							
X2 citrus fruits ()							
X3 fruit orchard ()							
X4 winery							
X5 olive grove							
X6 Vegetables ()							
X7 grains ()							

- for vegetables, reference is made to all vegetables;
- for arable crops reference is made to durum wheat, vetch, grass, etc. ...

TABLE OF INFORMATION (VALUATION **HIGH/MEDIUM/LOW**)

PART 4 – Personal Questions about your farm

- 1) Do you work in the farm full-time? **yes**
- 2) If not, could you imagine living off the farm full-time work? YES NO
- 3) Are you satisfied with your job? To what extent from 1 (not very satisfied) to 5 (very satisfied)? **3, yes, it's my work**

1	little	2	low	3	medium	4	high	5	a lot
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- 4) Does your farm run in your family? If so, since when? **Yes, for generations** (year)
- 5) Do you have staff employed in the farm or seasonal staff? **No, I work alone. I don't have any help. Every day in all weathers I'm outside with the cows. Full-time. There are no holidays ever.**
If so, how many? _____; number of total working days: _____
- 6) The age of the manual workers present in the farm is:
worker 1 : _____
worker 2 : _____
worker 3 : _____
- 7) Can you imagine a future for your farm? If so, to what extent from 1 (little) to 5 (very)? **1, barely future. You just live not to die.**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	little	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	low	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	high	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	a lot
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- 8) Do you have children who want to continue your business? If so, to what extent from 1 (little) to 5 (very)? **Didn't I ask Valerio to be a small entrepreneur? But when they said I had to advance 100.000€, I couldn't do it. They would give it back to you, but nevertheless it was impossible for me. Now he works in a factory in the north. The little one still goes to school, but I don't see a future for him in the farm.**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	little	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	low	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	high	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	a lot
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- 9) Do you want to extend or reduce your ownership? **If I had the chance I would extend it.**
- 10) How have land prices developed in your area over the past 20 years? **Stable for grazing land.**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	little	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	low	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	high	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	a lot
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- 11) If you had financial resources of 100, how would you distribute them in your farm? (what would you invest expressed as a percentage of the total 100 available)
- New crops and/or new varieties _____ %
 - Innovated processes (irrigation system, etc.) **cheese factory and investments in the farm 100 %**
 - Innovated mechanizing (agricultural machinery, etc.) _____ %
 - Digital innovations (sensors, crop management computers, etc.) _____ %
 - E-commerce _____ %
 - Other (please specify) _____ %
- 12) What do you think about associations and cooperation in the agricultural field? What should be done to favor them? **Would be good**
- 13) Would you like to share some good agricultural practice of your own / exchange experiences with others? **yes**
- 14) Where did you learn your trade?
- from the family: **from my father**
 - books (School) **no**
 - books and lectures (University) **no**
 - training courses **no**
 - consultants **no**

f) personal experimentation **no**

15) How do you rate the infrastructure of your business? To what extent from 1 (little present) to 5 (very present)? **4, is working for now. Roads: Some holes are there, but it's normal here. Waste collection works.**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	little	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	low	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	medium	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	high	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	a lot
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16) How do you think your community can help you? (e.g. waste collection)

It's working

My biggest problem: There is no price on the product

Let's stay in touch!

- 1) Name and address of your farm: **G*** M*******
- 2) farm location (description): **Difesa**
- 3) Name of respondent and role (e.g. owner, host): **Owner (on the card his mother)**
- 4) Owner's age: **58**
- 5) Owner's qualification:
- 6) Age of the holder if it is different from the owner's
- 7) Educational qualification of the holder if it is different from the owner's
- 8) Email address: **I don't have e-mail, just WhatsApp**
- 9) Telephone Number: **328*******

Observations of the multiplier on the visited farm

- Date of visit: **10/05/2020**
- Name of interviewer/interviewee: **Stefanie Hermesen**
- Meeting location (Set exact address and, if possible, GPS location): **Next to his farm, Bronte**
- Landscape structure (mountain / plain): **In the flat area of Etna, near the border of the Biosphere Lands. Beautiful area.**
- What does the farm look like at first sight? (Different, intensively maintained or with wild corners/elements, hilly position, erosion-resistant). **Fields without being maintained with so much ferla**
- How was the communication with the owner? **Good, helpful.**
- Can the farm be recommended for a visit by experts/politicians? (General impression, friendliness, possibility of catering, accessibility, environment (nice area / dumps by the roadside, etc....) **A bit simple, not yet to be recommended for expert visits**
- Can the farm be recommended to evaluate the Terre della Biosfera partnership? (with a different specification): **I think yes, natural work**

We respect your privacy and in the firm we will not explicitly refer to your farm. Please provide your contact to be notified directly about upcoming appointments or initiatives (invitations, useful information on the new CAP).