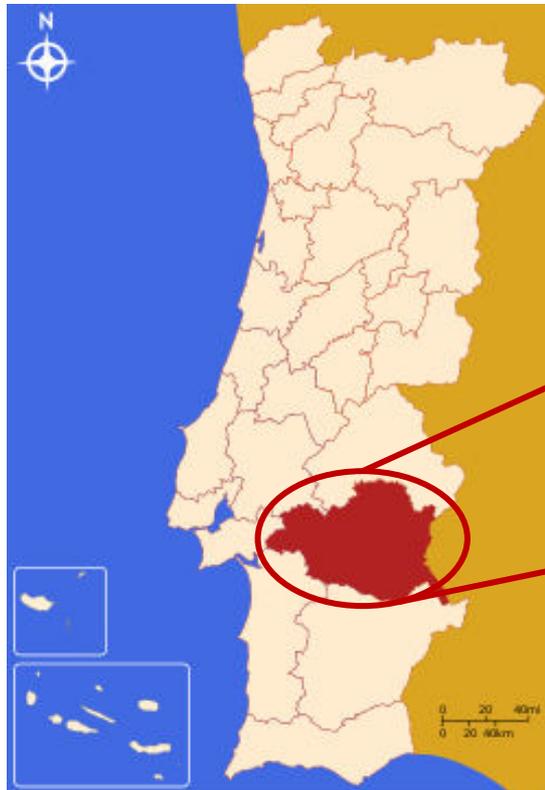


# Small Scale Peri-urban Mosaic Farms in Montemor-o-Novo

**PEGASUS Project Seminar in Portugal  
November 2017**

# Profile of Case Study



Lisbon

Spain



Area

1233 Km<sup>2</sup>

Inhabitants

18485

Density

14 people / Km<sup>2</sup>

7% decrease since 1991

Introduction



Methodology

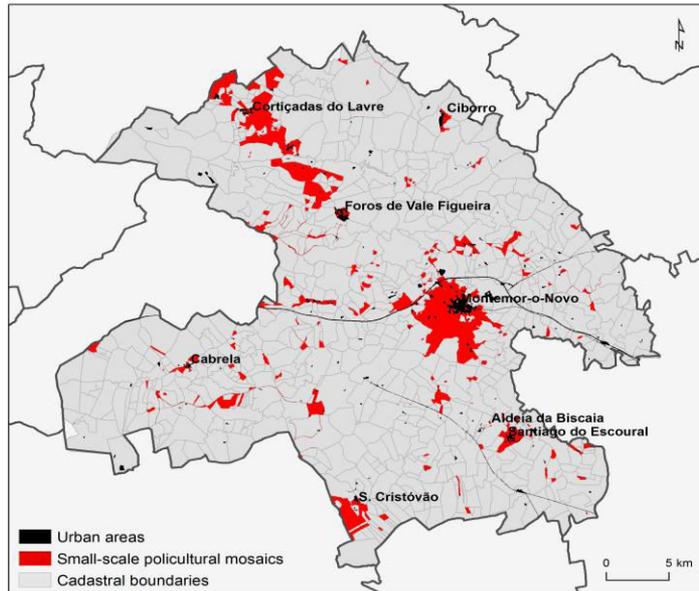


Results



Conclusions

# Profile of Case Study



The overall landscape is dominated by large-extensive silvo-pastoral systems



- I. Every day landscape of the population
- II. It is highly attractive to newcomers (small and close to services)
- III. Short supply chains
- IV. Preserves know-how specific to the region
- V. Hybridity of Mediterranean agriculture

Introduction



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# Profile of Case Study

## Advantages

- **Productive** soils : high quality products (olive oil, wine, vegetables etc.)
- Big product **diversity** and sustainable traditional techniques
- Already established **short supply chains**
- **Close to villages** so most people have other income sources so easier to maintain farming despite changing conditions

## Problems

- **Scale** issues: Difficult to access **markets** due to size
- Lack of **environmental knowledge** and awareness in traditional farmers: Use of chemical inputs that compromise the quality of the product and the environmental quality of the farm and surroundings.

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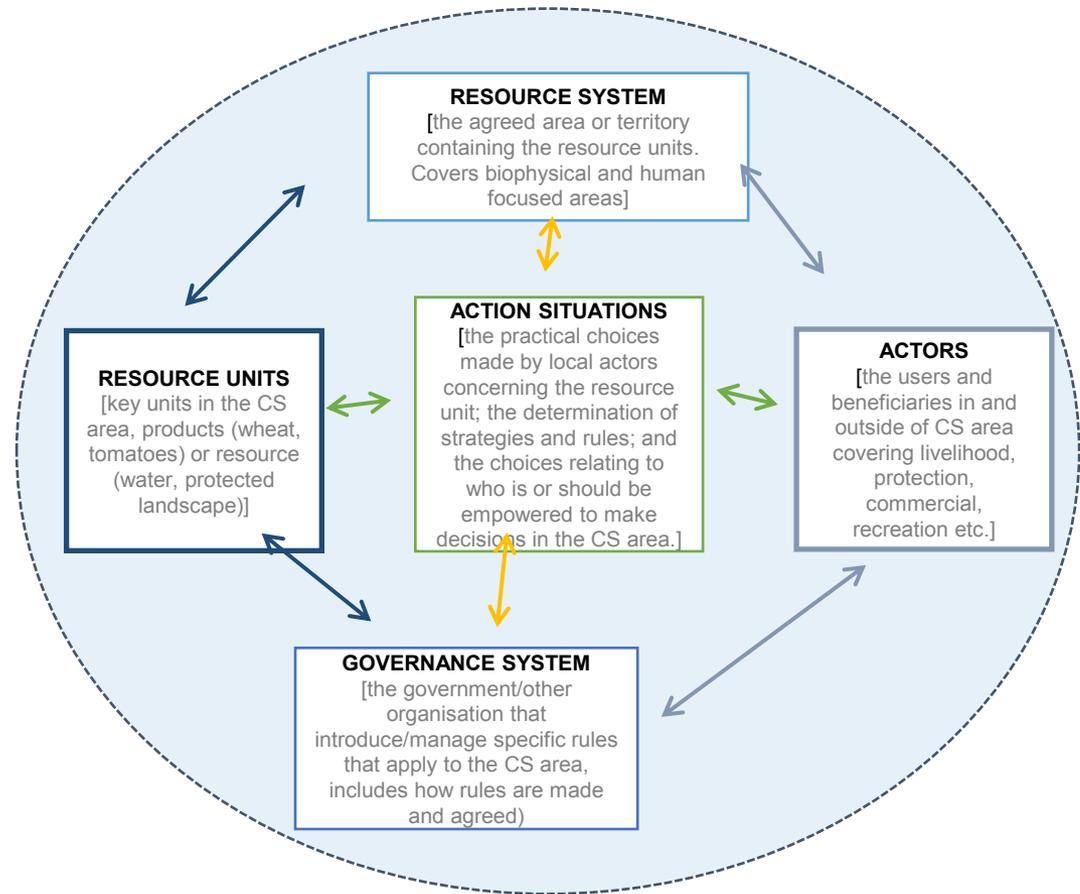
Conclusions

# Methodological approach: SES

**AIM: to capture the multiple interactions taking place between drivers, actors, practices and the outcomes delivered**

Identification of resources, resource system, actors, governance system and action situations.

1. Review of Literature
2. Participatory approach: interviews with key-actors and focus groups in different moments



**ESBOs: Rural vitality and Sustainable Food Production**

Introduction



Methodology



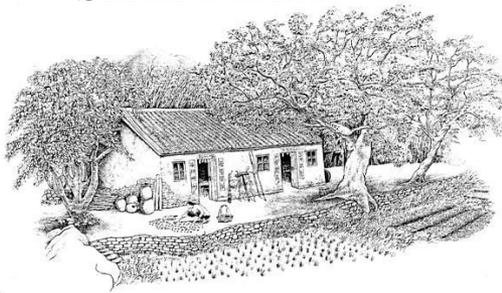
Results



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# Results: Main actors

Small Farms



**Traditional farmers:** Many years of experience, subsistence activity. Aware of societal concerns but not willing to change

**New Specific farmers:** Farming is their main activity, but develop it as high quality niche production (i.e. organic or biodynamic)

**Lifestyle farmers:** Newcomers that do some farming in their land. Searching for a greener life, and share common concern about food production

Other actors:

- **Consumers:** local or linked to farmers through direct sales;
- **Rede de Cidadania de Montemor-o-Novo:** citizen network that aims to contribute to the sustainability of the Municipality.



**New mixed community: No social space separations – Mediterranean hybridity**

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# Governance arrangements and mechanisms

Local Administration

Generally does not assume stewardship and does not promote collective actions



**Land banks:**  
Free or low cost

**Green Tax Incentives**

**KM 0**  
In canteens and restaurants

## Alternative Governance Systems

- **Citizen Network** » works as contact hub and enhances awareness of local production benefits.
- **Urban demand** enhances attention on locally produced quality food, and organic  
» **new comers have a role** in introducing new awareness and new models.
- **Informal and hybrid channels and networks** » knowledge sharing + information exchange

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# Role of civil society in achieving collective action

Main collective actions that have emerged from the civil society:

## New

1. MINGA: Local cooperative composed of farmers who need consultancy, organic farmers and inhabitants who want to change their consumption habits towards sustainability.

## Traditional

2. Liga dos pequenos e medios agricultores: Association that offers technical and financial consultancy for farmers and access to plots of land

However

- Among individuals soft skills for collaboration missing
- Lack of collaboration skills: collaborations hard to keep in long term
- Leaders DO NOT have institutional capacity to influence needed changes in a short term
- Lack of clear stewardship: who is responsible for what ?

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# Drivers and limiting factors

## Drivers

- Higher social value attributed to farming = newcomers
- 2 Land Banks created
- Local municipality has the will to maintain small farmers in the area
- Increased demand for local products and short supply chains

## Limiting factors

- Many elderly farmers have no successor: loss of knowledge
- No legal framework: farming depends central government no local delegation
- CAP much concentrated on Pillar I and large scale farming, rather than rural development measures (unseen reality)
- Too much bureaucracy
- Mistrust on institutions
- Lack of knowledge on subsidies and bureaucracy, access difficult

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# Main conclusions

**Local** collective actions provide economic, bureaucratic and technical support to small-farmers + small farmers provide farming knowledge to the new-comers: creating active informal networks and governance structures.

“Newcomers” are creators of a **new dynamic** and resulting in **reshaped communities** » opportunities and challenge to public administration at multiple governance levels.

The construction of a local institutional framework adapted to the **territory** and supporting **existing new dynamics** is needed

Lack of support from the local administration. They spend money in activities that have no repercussion and do not promote nor boost what local organisations ask and need them to, such as the KM0, local product consumption etc.

Local government makes use of the general positive and active general dynamics but do not provide enough support. Many failed initiatives due to this.

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