

Which are the barriers to achieve an emancipatory agroecological transition in western Sicily? Participatory action-research approach to the analysis of agri-food systems comparing agroindustrial and agroecological perspectives.

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Mediterranean regions are "hotspots" for ongoing climate change. This increases the need for inputs for climate-changing agro-industrial supply chains based on the structural exploitation of racialized agricultural labor and natural resources. Moreover, it increases the vulnerability of fragile territories, peasant realities, and communities aiming at an agroecological transition based on care for land, water and biodiversity.

In this contribution, we analyze the relationship between land and water use for food production and adaptation practices to climate change and other vulnerabilities. We compare agroindustrial and agroecological systems in western Sicily. The analysis frames these classes of systems within techno-scientific and ecological principles, also accounting for their social and political foundations. The aim of the analysis is to identify structural constraints and barriers to an emancipatory agroecological transition in Sicilian territories. The latter are traced back both in local socio-environmental vulnerabilities exacerbated by ongoing climate change and in the power relations intertwined with food production in its industrialized, extractive configuration. Our approach is based on the principles of solidarity and participation: the research questions emerge from the concrete needs of gaining knowledge tightly connected to the s-objects in struggle. It aims at laying the foundations of a dialectic that is transformative.

The method makes use of qualitative and quantitative analysis tools which uses the lens of political agroecology, particularly focused on the development of a participatory guarantee system (SGP) which represents one of the "action" components of the research. We use data, information and knowledge emerged from an ethnography and collective action-research on the olive supply chain in the Trapani area. Together with results from a participatory action-research project focused on agroecology carried out with the network of peasant agriculture and self-management work FuoriMercato Sicilia.

Self-organized labor practices, local and peasant ecological knowledge, building alliances with and the protagonism of marginalized subjects in rural areas emerge as fundamental to the adaptation and survival of exploited bodies and territories. The breaking down of structural economic barriers and facilitation, based on the methods of ecopedagogy, emerge as central to the activation of processes of intervention and to the development of relationships with urban movements for social and climate justice.