Beyond rural urban divide:
the role of agro-urban systems in Rome

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Outlines

1. City, agrifood systems and landscape in face of changes
2. Understanding rural urban linkages
3. The case of Rome
4. The role of urban food policies
5. Some final remarks
1. Background: cities and agrifood systems in face of changes

The changes in food scenario: a new food equation (Morgan & Sonnino, 2010) → The food insecurity + the uncontrolled urban growth and the land use conflicts in urban areas + the lack of stable local food markets + weak knowledge about the food production and agriculture + climate change effects.

# Cosmopolitan localism and foodscape: towards a new paradigm for a territorial agrifood system planning to improve the local management of food systems that are both local and global (Sonnino, 2013, FAO, 2011, 2013).

# Cities function as part of social-ecological systems: agricultural production not as “the antithesis of the city,” but as an integrated urban activity that contribute to the resilience of cities (Val Lewen et al., 2010; Barthel & Isendahl, 2013; Colding & Barthel, 2013).

# Looking at the food system and thinking about the resilience of city-region, beyond the boundaries of the urban areas itself, including towns, semi-urban areas, and outlying rural lands.
2. Understanding rural urban linkages (1/2)

- Hierarchies and power in face of changes
- Processes and flows: fleeing dynamics (and boundaries)
- *Urban welfare or rural welfare*

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Right to the city
Right to food
Lands right
...

(Policy making, planning and governance)

People/settlement/pollution
Capital/Revenue/income
Food/knowledge/innovation
Waste/Ecosystem services

Agricultural/Rural areas
Periurban areas
Urban/Metropolitan areas
2. Understanding rural urban linkages (2/2)

- **Agriculture with seminatural patterns**: Coastal resources are managed for biodiversity, storm surge protection and aquaculture, aesthetic and recreational benefits, crops.

- **Upland forest**: Upland forest provides water harvesting, food control, wildlife conservation, carbon sequestration, scenery & recreation, and timber & non-timber products, landscapes.

- **Peri-urban landscape corridors**: Peri-urban landscape corridors with multi-scale and mixed crop/livestock operations.

- **Low density urban**: Farmers markets, retail & wholesale markets, food hubs and community gardens in the urban core enable access to fresh, locally produced food resources.

- **High density urban**: Urban and rural linkages.
3. The case of Rome: stylized facts

# Rome is the largest city in Italy in terms of surface area and population and was the largest agricultural municipality in Europe until 1992 (Fiumicino breakup)

# The slow evolution of agrarian landscape characters until Land Drainages in the 1930’s and the Land Reform during the 1930’s and 1950’s (Medici, 1961) + the role played by the Church State and the Roman rich families in large landed estate

# Historical and cultural role of Rome’ countryside (i.e. Grand Tour Literature)

# Urban sprawl, land revenue and agriculture \(\rightarrow\) 2/3 of the urbanised surface have been built up in the last fifty years, occupying mostly agricultural land (Bianchi and Zanchini 2011, ISTAT, 2011)

# Changing land use (1974/2010) \(\rightarrow\) +194% mix woods, + 47% urban, -48% mix farming, -94% pasture, -78% mediterranean maquis (Cavallo et al., 2012)
3. The case of Rome: a revised urban rural typology (scale 1:250,000)
- 59% agricultural area → 29% in urban area, 19% in peri-urban areas and 51% in rural areas

- Rome as municipality has an agricultural area of 25%
3. The case of Rome: a foodscapes geography?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Territorial typologies</th>
<th>UAA 2000 (hectars)</th>
<th>UAA 2010 (hectars)</th>
<th>Variation (hectars)</th>
<th>Variation (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>115.357</td>
<td>97.775</td>
<td>-17.583</td>
<td>-15.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periurban</td>
<td>33.959</td>
<td>29.020</td>
<td>-4.939</td>
<td>-14.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>43.776</td>
<td>49.183</td>
<td>5.407</td>
<td>12.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>193.092</td>
<td>175.978</td>
<td>-17.114</td>
<td>-8.9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Territorial typologies</th>
<th>Farms 2000 (unit)</th>
<th>Farms 2010 (unit)</th>
<th>Variation (unit)</th>
<th>Variation (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>34.405</td>
<td>12.479</td>
<td>-21.926</td>
<td>-63.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periurban</td>
<td>12.642</td>
<td>5.584</td>
<td>-7.058</td>
<td>-55.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>4.363</td>
<td>3.568</td>
<td>-795</td>
<td>-18.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>51.410</td>
<td>21.631</td>
<td>-29.779</td>
<td>-57.9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Rome as municipality has an agricultural area of 25%
3. The case of Rome: a foodscapes geography?

The number of farms in Rome (1982/2010)

- 1982
- 1990
- 2000
- 2010

The number of farms in Rome (1982/2010)

- 6,000
- 5,000
- 4,000
- 3,000
- 2,000
- 1,000
- 0

- Rome: last Census data (Istat, 2000/10) show \(\rightarrow\) +16% of cultivated land and +40% of farms

- Farms distribution by size strictly polarised \(\rightarrow\) 29% of small farms (1< ectr) on 1% of cultivated land and big farms (> 50 hectares) 8% of farms on 63% of land

- Increasing importance of Alternative and Local Food Networks \(\rightarrow\) +60% farm sell directly +57% Farmers’ market at municipality level and +64% in Rome’s province (2010/13) (Marino et al. 2013)
3. The case of Rome: a foodscapes geography?
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# The case of Rome: a foodscapes geography?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEATURES</th>
<th>COMMERCIAL FARMING</th>
<th>MIX FARMING</th>
<th>COMMON FARMING</th>
<th>SOCIAL FARMING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farms size</td>
<td>✓✓✓</td>
<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓✓✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main livelihoods</td>
<td>Horticulture, dairy, arable, greenhouses</td>
<td>Horticulture, dairy, arable, pasture, olive grove</td>
<td>Arable, dairy, pasture, woods</td>
<td>Horticulture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Market oriented</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓✓</td>
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<td>Employment</td>
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<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Innovation</td>
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<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓✓✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integration in agrifood system</td>
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<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Role in Local Food Networks</td>
<td>Pick you Own Box scheme</td>
<td>Food procurement</td>
<td>Pick you Own Solidarity Purchased Groups</td>
<td>Pick you Own Community Supported Agriculture</td>
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<td>Policy support</td>
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<td>✓✓✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical value</td>
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<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ecosystem services</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location in protected areas</td>
<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓✓✓</td>
<td>✓✓</td>
<td>✓✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Territorial typology</td>
<td>Rural, periurban, urban</td>
<td>Periurban and urban</td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>Periurban and urban</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key:
- ✓✓✓ relevant
- ✓✓ medium
- ✓ low
3. The case of Rome: a foodscapes geography?

COMMERCIAL FARMING

MIX FARMING

SOCIAL FARMING

COMMON FARMING

“WAITING FARMING”
The role of revenue in new zoning of plans

Rural

Periurban

Urban

Agriculture with seminatural patterns

Low density urban

Medium density urban
4. The role of urban food policies
The workshop has involved stakeholders (e.g., actors of food chain, scholars, and authorities) to share views and practices in order to draw lessons for inclusive, innovative and sustainable food urban planning.

Three main questions:
1. From farm to kitchen: how to build urban food infrastructures?
2. Beyond the food pyramid towards food self-sufficiency?
3. Considering the flows: how to reduce food miles and increase food travellers?

The workshop has produced a Rome’s declaration addressed to the European MEPs and decision makers in view of future elections in UE Parliament.
5. Final remarks

A paradigm in both planning and policy is required in order to ensure access to food, foster inclusion and innovation, improve environmental management, enhance rural-urban linkages and provide policy guidance at both national and local level.

# Defining the role of governance → The urban food policy calls for a common commitment at both EU level and national and local one (i.e. the cities should have a designated food department);

# Reading the Mediterranean urban phenomenon;

# Finding the right scale → regional scale vs urban scale;

# Identifying quantitative goals, specific actions and timeline;

# Linking research to policy-making in food planning → (i.e. Italian Network of researchers in urban and peri-urban agriculture and urban food planning).
Thank you!
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