



**PROGRESS**

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# The Community for Food and Agro- biodiversity of the Garfagnana (Province of Lucca)

**Massimo Rovai**

Università di Pisa

# Highlights/outline

Agro-biodiversity as a ESS?

The regulatory framework

The aims of the Community for Food and Agro-biodiversity of the Garfagnana

# Key research questions of Lucca LL

How can food policies strengthen the synergies between rural and urban areas, considering cultural connections and ecosystem services?

Which governance models can be defined and utilised to reinforce these synergies?

What synergies can be identified as mutually beneficial between territorial planning tools and the local food policy?

What limitations are encountered?

# On which ES have we focused our attention?

How food is produced has a direct influence on the ESs provision and regulation ...

- production of ecosystem services / dis-services
- Example: maintenance / destruction of traditional rural landscape; maintenance / reduction of soil organic matter

Is agro-biodiversity a value for society or for local community?  
Can we therefore consider it an ecosystem service?

# Regulatory framework

The Law n. 194/15 - Rules for the protection and enhancement of agrifood-biodiversity - based essentially on five main actions:

1. the identification of the genetic resource (local breed or variety);
2. the characterization of the genetic resource ;
3. registration in a specific national directory or register;
4. conservation "in situ" and "ex situ";
5. valorization:

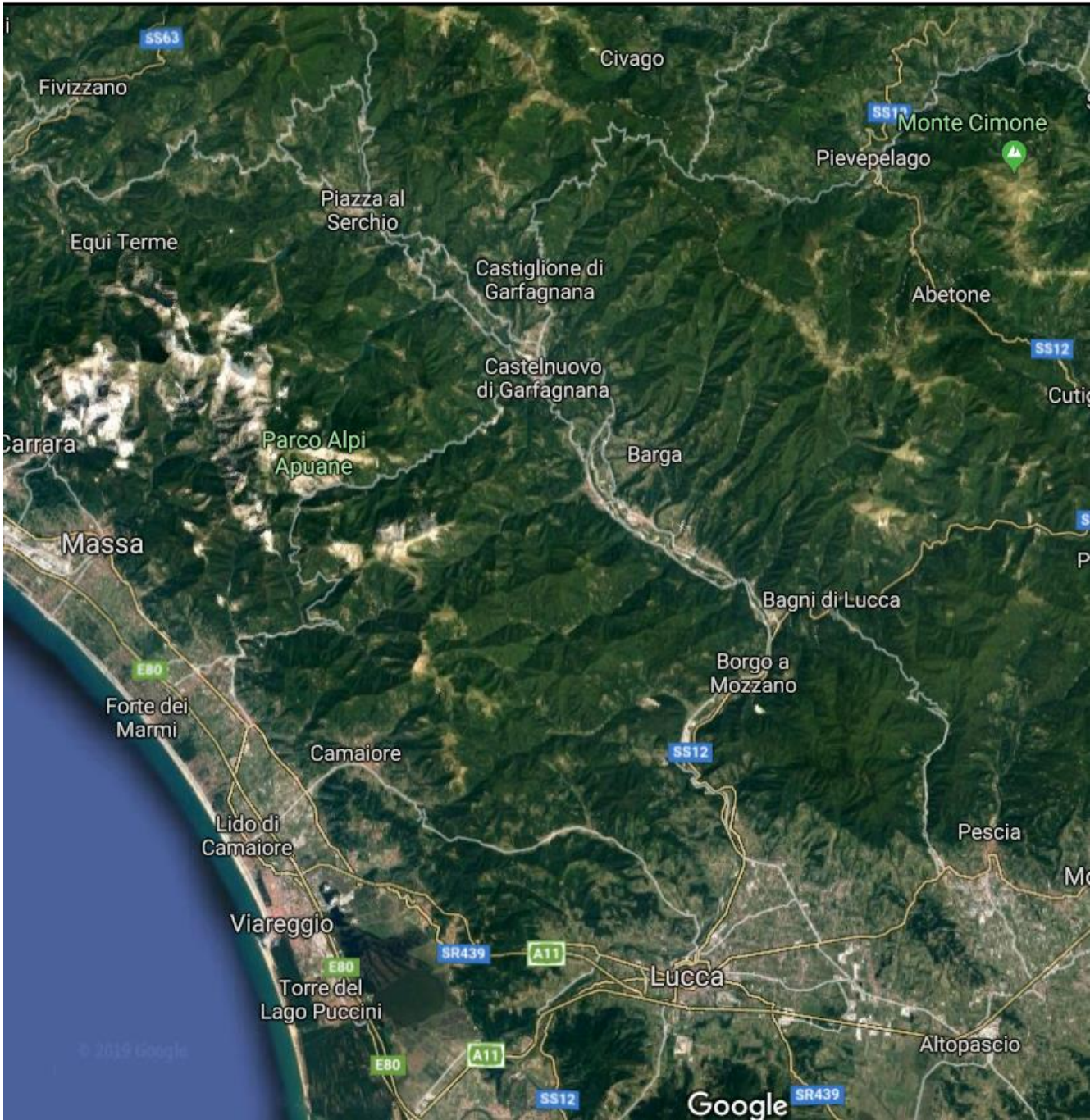
*The Law n. 194/2015, art. 13, establishes the “**community for food and agro-biodiversity**”, defined as "agreements among local farmers, custodian farmers, ethical purchasing groups (GAS), schools, universities, research centres, organisations for agro-biodiversity conservation, canteens of schools and hospitals, catering industries, restaurants, retailers, food processing SMEs, public bodies".*

# Agreements: areas of intervention

- the study, recovery and transmission of knowledge on genetic resources of local agrifood products;
- the creation of short supply chains, direct sales, exchange and purchase of agricultural and food products within local circuits;
- the study and dissemination of organic farming practices and other cultivation systems with low environmental impact and aimed at saving water, lower carbon dioxide emissions, greater soil fertility and less use of packaging for distribution and product sales;
- the study, recovery and transmission of traditional knowledge relating to agricultural crops, the natural selection of seeds to cope with climate change and proper nutrition;
- the creation of educational, social, urban and collective gardens, such as tools for enhancing local varieties, environmental education and agricultural practices, social aggregation, redevelopment of abandoned or degraded areas and unused agricultural land.



# The territory of Garfagnana



# The territory of Garfagnana

Garfagnana is enclosed between two mountain ranges (Apuan Alps and the Appennine).

The relatively isolated localisation of the territory has given rise to high biodiversity and to a community with a strong sense of identity.

Currently, the local gene Bank collection includes 28 herbaceous varieties, 185 traditional fruit varieties and 50 vines, whereas 38 Custodian Farmers/seed savers are in operation in this area of the Province of Lucca. This rich variety of rare and local varieties of crops, livestock to be protected constitutes:

- the agro-biodiversity heritage of Garfagnana
- a main challenge for the local community, given the economic opportunities potentially presented by a valuable valorisation of such resources.



# The Community for Food and Agrobiodiversity of Garfagnana

Established in December 2017 with the help of the Union of Municipalities (Unione dei Comuni)

## Why creating a Community for Food and Agrobiodiversity?

- key element for supporting ecosystem services provision, through maintenance and dissemination of historical and cultural values of agricultural biodiversity, local knowledge and traditions;
- an opportunity to set up new farm enterprises, more aware of the necessity to develop multifunctional, more resilient models of farms;
- to reconnect local production with local consumption to get it out a "niche" dimension because the agro-biodiversity products are still largely perceived – if known – as either expensive or for tourists.

# The path towards the creation of the Community

Step 1 - Creation of a discussion space - Identification of the actors to be involved

Step 2 - Sharing of values and objectives: the establishment of the Chart of the Community

Step 3 - Enlargement of the alliance → The Community opens up to the territory: The Pact for the Land

Step 4 - Translation of objectives into actions: The Strategic Plan

# The steps in detail

## Step 1 - Creation of a discussion space - Identification of the actors to be involved

- animation for the constitution of meetings with key subjects, to present the general aims of the project - collection of expectations and needs of the participants

## Step 2 - Sharing of values and objectives: the establishment of the Chart of the Community

- Definition of the values and objectives through meetings.
- Main objective → creation of added value for the members, the citizens, the territory the role of the various actors in the Community (for example, the participation of public bodies)

## Step 3 - Enlargement of the alliance → The Community opens up to the territory: The Pact for the Landp

## Step 4 - Translation of objectives into actions: The Strategic Plan

- Summary of the activities to be carried out, the result of sharing paths activated on the territory
- Actions, areas of intervention, tasks of the members of the Community

# Actors and tools

Two main groups of actors:

- 1) subscribers of the Chart of the Community, those directly involved in the Community's activities such as Custodian Farmers, the food chain's operators and civil society organisations working on food and agrobiodiversity;
- 2) subscribers of the Pact for the Land, those who share the Chart principles and support the Community through their activities, such as public bodies and institutions, farmers unions and other national organisations.

Subscribers of the Chart of the Community were 54 on December 2017, when the Food Community has been setup.

The Community is also supported by the Rural Development Program of the Tuscany Region (measure 10.2).

# Aims of the Strategic Plan

For the years 2018-2020, the Community for Food and Agro-biodiversity aims at:

- enhancing knowledge on local agro-biodiversity through its network;
- reinforcing the network for the conservation and valorisation of local agro-biodiversity;
- providing marketing opportunities for local agro-biodiverse products.



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Thank you!

Questions welcome



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