demography

**Very low population density**

**Human desertification**

Area: 1,292.87km²
Inhabitants 2018: 6 202
Population Density: 4.8 inhabkm²
35.6% of residents are over 65

landscape

**Shallow soils very exposed to erosion**

**High vulnerability to desertification.**

Extremely high levels of water stress
Low water holding capacity
High evapotranspiration and salinization
Vegetation degradation
Agricultural practices (livestock)

**Semiarid climate**

**High vulnerability to climate change and extreme weather events**

Hot and dry summers;
Precipitation between 457 mm and 590 mm with decreasing tendency;
Annual average temperature rise;
Increase in extreme weather events [heat waves; torrential rains; cyclonic winds; extreme droughts]

landscape management

106 villages, 4.8 inhabitants per Km²
Large land system - 131 ha medium
Agricultural practices (livestock)
Inadequacy of agricultural policies and practices
60% of the territory as a protected natural area: Natural Park of Guadiana Valley

economy

Low business density
Subsidized agriculture
Prevalence of the tertiary sector (dependence on public employment)
Low level of productivity and competitiveness
Low purchasing power and low income population

infrastructure and services

Loss of proximity services [health, education,...];
Deficit of basic infrastructures (water, sanitation, road network);
Housing supply deficit
Poor mobile and internet coverage accessibility and mobility - lack of a public transportation system

government

Centralizing policies
Absence of a civic culture and citizen participation
Hierarchical relations deficit in networking
Biodiversity sanctuary

Guadiana Valley Natural Park (60%)

Mosaic landscape

Guadiana valley and riparian galleries; pseudo-steppe; scrub areas; Montado holm oak forest; pine areas, wetlands, rainfed agriculture areas.

Culture and heritage

Part of the national Tentative List for UNESCO World Heritage sites

Place of knowledge and scientific research

40 years of continuous archaeological research

Social capital

Resilient community and territory
resilience
Mértola, a laboratory for the Future

Response from a resilient and restless community that believes in a more sustainable future!
Mértola, as pilot territory for testing educational solutions adapted to very low density territories.

Cultural literacy as a factor of social and territorial cohesion. Heritage as a factor of sustainable development.

Collaborative leadership and co-creative models. Systemic approaches to the territory.

For an inclusive, resilient, safe and sustainable territory.

For a new rural economy: multifunctionality, territorial specialization, sustainability and transition. Rural-urban interface.
Local Agenda for agroecological transition, Ecosystem restoration, climate change and desertification.
Formal and non-formal education

Forest (Syntropic) Gardens in 5 primary schools - AECs

Food education activities for children
Formal and non-formal education: community empowerment

Night at the market
Peer Learning / Communities of Practice

Participation of local farmers in courses, seminars and workshops;

Communities of Practice:

Visit to international reference projects

Visits between farmers in Mértola

Visit to Projects with agroecological practices such as Key line system, Holistic grazing (Herdade das Defesinhas, Monte do Seixo, Herdade da Ribeira Abaixo)
Demonstration Center in Agroecology

- Production, Demonstration and Monitoring of different Agroecology techniques.

- Garden and Nursery of the Forgotten Varieties of Al-Andaluz.

Parceria: CMM, CIBIO, CAM
Mértola Food System

Network of Gardens

Asociación Monticola
Restaurante Vila Velha

Horta da Moura
Restaurante Espaço Casa Amarela Café Guadiana

Rosmaninho Verde
Horta da Malhadinha

Horta Social do Centro de Apoio de Idosos da Moreanes

Horta do Combral
Casa do Povo de Santana de Cambas

Hortas Comunitárias do Convento
Mértola
Mértola Food System

Land Exchange

• 1st Phase - Training in Agricultural Context
• 2nd Phase - Test and autonomous learning with tutoring
• 3rd phase - Land Exchange / partnerships with local owners

Support:
Training and Mentoring;
Accommodation and meals in the 1st phase;
Minimum Guaranteed Income 2nd and 3rd phases;
Possibility to test without fear of making mistakes;
Flow through the Local Food Network.
Short circuits

Selling in local markets

Municipal Market of Mértola

Municipal Market of Mina de S. Domingos
Collaboration between farmers: fruit and vegetable boxes. Home delivery

On March 20, 2020, Terra Sintrópica, in partnership with AEVG, the Professional School ALSUD and the Municipality of Mértola, started direct distribution, at home, of baskets of vegetables and bio fruits, as well as purchases from local businesses.

Collaboration between farmers: From baskets at home to a Regional Food Basin

With the increase in demand, the Local Food Network established commercial partnerships with other local and organic producers in the southern region of Portugal, allowing to have a diversified offer of organic products from family farming.
Collective Catering Canteens
Schools, Social Institutions
**Local Producers Markets**

**Street Markets**

Promotor: CMM – PDR2020, AEVG

**Frescos sobre Rodas**

**Fresh on Wheels**

Local Production Fresh Baskets
Local producers online trading platform
Municipal Markets
Delivery service with electric vehicle

Promotor: CMM – Fundo Ambiental; Rede Alimentar de Mértola; AEVG; Ass. Terra Sintrópica

https://www.frescosdemertola.pt/
multiplier effect...

A Cozinha da Avó
Grandma's Kitchen
Healthy Eating, Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship
Collaborative Gardens
Cooking Academy
Food Lab
Pop Up Restaurant
Casa do Povo de Santana de Cambas

Espaço Vila Velha
Tapas e Restaurante
Esta fim-de-semana iremos realizar um Workshop de Conservas e Fermentados. Inscreva-se, o número de vagas é limitado!

Conservas e Fermentados
8 NOV | 17H00
DOM, 8/11
Workshop de Conservas e Fermentados
Mértola, Distrito de Beja
Alexandra, Ana e Carlos

Monticola adicionou um evento
3 h

Workshop
Apicultura: Práticas sustentáveis na agricultura e alimentação
13 DEZ | 17H00
DOM, 13/12 às 17h00
Promotor: Associação Monticola

Espaço Casa Amarela
Restaurant
Workshops

Espaço Casa Amarela
25 de setembro 2020
18h00
Workshop presencial Cozinha de Outono (Menu de Vegetação) e Receitas

Casa do Povo de Santana de Cambas
Main current challenges of the Project

- Collective organization model (which is the ideal model, need for organizational innovation);
- Difficulty in giving technical response to new volunteers and participants, who want to integrate the project (we are few to do much);
- Need for permanent infrastructure (with urgent needs in view of the evolution of the project and the future potential).
### Main Contextual Challenges vs Paradigm Change

#### Common Agricultural Policy vs Integrated Food Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Approach “Business as usual”</th>
<th>Integrated Food Policy approach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who sets the policies? Main sectors involved.</td>
<td>Dominant role of DG Agri, COMAGRI, Agribusiness Stakeholders. Based on agricultural policy objectives and definitions</td>
<td>Co-creation with stakeholders on an equal footing that link policy objectives and definitions: Agriculture, Environment, Health, Combating Poverty, Sustainable Development, Education, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance level</td>
<td>Standardized European policies and limited funds for local initiatives</td>
<td>Multilevel governance with learning mechanisms and support for local experimentation initiatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Security and Price Policy</td>
<td>Distribute cheap calories produced in massified systems (LOW-COST-FOOD-SYSTEM)</td>
<td>Decrease negative externalities (eg environmental and health) and share costs equally across the food chain (TRUE-COST-FOOD-SYSTEM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paradigm of Innovation</td>
<td>Focus on product technological innovation with universal application (precision agriculture, climate-smart agriculture)</td>
<td>Focus on technological, organizational, social, process and system based innovations (agroecology)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paradigm of Resilience</td>
<td>Confidence in risk management tools and constant support</td>
<td>Build long-term resilience via agroecology, diversification and based on value chains</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you so much!
Stay Safe!