

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DRIVERS IN THE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL SECTOR TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

ARC CENTRAL OFFICE – HATFIELD - PRETORIA

2-3 DECEMBER 2019

The Italian Embassy in South Africa in collaboration with the South African Agricultural Research Council (ARC) and the Italian Council for Agricultural Research and Analysis of the Agricultural Economy (CREA) will be hosting a workshop on the social and economic drivers of sustainable local economic development. The workshop aims to analyze and discuss approaches to local development that foster sustainable growth of local food systems in environmental, social and economic terms. Climate change, biodiversity reduction, land grabbing, increasing food insecurity and income inequality are complex challenges that need innovative interventions in agricultural systems not only from a technical and agronomic point of view, but also from a social perspective. Conventional agricultural systems are not adequate to deal with the serious problems that trouble several local populations, mainly in rural areas, but also in urban area. It is important to promote a transformative change in the way we produce and consume food and develop sustainable food systems that offer healthy and nutritious food, and eco-system services that are resistant to climate change, bringing together traditional knowledge and scientific knowledge. A new agricultural and economic paradigm, based on circularity, types of enterprise involving farmers (i.e. types of cooperatives), short chains, diversification of farm activities (including first processing, direct sales, services) and human and social capital, vulnerable people inclusion, is needed.

In South Africa and Italy, different public and private actors are working on value chain inclusion, rural development and food and nutritional security, as evidenced by the initiatives carried out in recent years and by the presence of numerous organizations, farms and public bodies interested in the social benefits of agriculture.

The meeting will be organized in different sessions with the aim to delve into organizational, economic, social aspects of this new approach to food production, through the presentation of empirical case studies and experiences from Italy and South Africa by bringing together researchers, community development practitioners, policy makers and other relevant stakeholder groups. The meeting is also expected to present a platform for research and practitioners to identify opportunities for collaboration both in practice and in terms of future research.

Draft Agenda

2 December 2019	
10.00	Welcoming Session Chair- Thulasizwe Mkhabela (ARC) Welcoming remarks by ARC President & Chief Executive Officer - Dr Shadrack Moephuli Remarks by Italian Ambassador to South Africa - H.E. Paolo Cuculi Purpose of workshop: Francesca Giare (CREA, Italy)
11.00	Session 1: Towards a new agricultural and economic paradigm Session chair - Petronella Chaminuka (ARC) Wim Van Averbek (Tshwane University of Technology) - Strengthening rural livelihood by providing access to land and irrigation water in water-stressed South Africa Francesco Vanni (CREA, Italy) - Developing a more sustainable and inclusive agriculture and society. The contribution of agroecology Lelethu Tshofuti (VPUU) - Social business models. Strategic opportunities to build social capital while supporting an economy based social justice: The case of VPUU Sustainable Enterprise <i>The session aims to present and discuss activities, policies and experiences that can promote change towards more sustainable and inclusive agriculture and society.</i>
12.30	Lunch
13.30	Session 2: New approaches and innovations for sustainable local food chain Session chair - Francesca Giare (CREA) Ashwell Ndhlala (ARC) - The Moringa value chain and the inclusion of small scale farmers and processors Salmina Mokgehle (ARC) - "The socio-economic value and nutritional qualities of Amaranthus" Paolo Menesatti (CREA, Italy) - Technical and digital innovations for agriculture and food processing in small farms <i>Different practices and innovations could contribute to develop Sustainable food chain and create new rural-urban links. The session, focusing on marginalized crops aims to present key factors and experiences to create sustainable local development, including agro-processing, high precision agriculture machineries, organic production, transportable machineries for transformation and conservation of products, etc.</i>
15.00	Session 3: Cooperation between farmers and community Session chair - Patrizia Borsotto (CREA) Erica van den Heever (ARC) - High value crop program for food security and rural poverty alleviation- Gauteng District Ilaria Signoriello (Agricoltura Capodarco, Italy) - Including vulnerable people in rural and urban areas and social value of food

	Patrizia Borsotto (CREA, Italy) - Creating sustainable local projects. Key factors and barriers <i>Cooperatives give smaller scale producers with limited resources access to an infrastructure that contributes to their capacity to aggregate, value-add, market, distribute or meet any other need defined by the membership.</i>
16.30	End of first work day
3 December 2019	
9.00	Session 4: Social farming for inclusion of vulnerable people Session chair - Thulasizwe Mkhabela (ARC) Francesca Giarè (CREA, Italy) - The social farming in Europe and Italy. The inclusive model Paul Bordonì (Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research) - Mapping and analyzing social farming in South Africa Nicoletta Piras (GAL Sulcis Iglesiente) - The value of the collaboration between public and private actors for local development <i>The session aims to present and discuss activities, policies and experiences for socio-working inclusion of vulnerable people and for local development.</i>
11.00	Session 5: Strengthening social and human capital Session chair - Paul Bordonì (Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research) Kurt Ackermann (South African Urban Food and Farming Trust) - Building social cohesion across communities Naude Malan (University of Johannesburg) - Urban agriculture for a sustainable food system. Innovative methods for agricultural development Azzurra Chiarini (JP RWEE Global Coordinator) - Strengthening international partnership to accelerate economic empowerment for rural women <i>This session aims to focus on social and human capital both as a key factor that can be developed by agricultural and social projects and as a driving force for strengthening a new economic paradigm. Experience and research evidence could help identify ways and means to increase it in South Africa, in particular with regard to women empowerment</i>
12.30	Closing session and end of the meeting
13.00	Lunch and exhibitions