

ESN Seminar/Webinar

Participatory Guarantee Systems:

A tool to transition toward sustainable food systems

Thursday, June 6th, 2019 | 11:00 - 12:30 |

Austria Room (C-250)

Adopted in 2015, the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) call for major transformations in agriculture and food systems in order to end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition by 2030. To realize the SDGs, the global food system needs to be reshaped to be more productive, more inclusive of poor and marginalized populations, environmentally sustainable and resilient, and able to deliver healthy and nutritious diets to all. These are complex and systemic challenges that require the combination of interconnected actions at the local, national, regional and global levels.

Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGSs) provide the opportunity to reconcile some of these different understanding and to foster multi-actor and cross-disciplinary collaboration. PGSs are defined as *locally focused quality assurance systems that certify producers based on active participation of stakeholders and are built on a foundation of trust, social networks and knowledge exchange* (IFOAM, 2008), meaning that in this systems farmers, consumers, small entrepreneurs, rural advisors, local authorities or other relevant stakeholders come together to make decisions, visit farms, support each other and decide which farmers can be awarded the certificate. Avoiding the cost of third-party certification and relying on peer-review, PGS are a low-cost quality assurance system that are inclusive for poor farmers and that foster farmers' autonomy and self-reflection. In this sense, PGSs can be seen as tools that catalyze the systemic change and commitments referred to by the SDGs.

PGS serve thousands of small-scale organic farmers and their consumers around the world and are a growing phenomenon both in developed and developing countries.

All staff are welcome to attend.

Biography of the speaker:

Florence Tartanac works at FAO since 2001 and she is Senior Officer in the Nutrition and Food Systems Division at FAO, Rome. Her areas of expertise are the following: sustainable value chain development and inclusive business models; voluntary standards and geographical indications; institutional procurements; small and medium food enterprises development. Before FAO, she worked 10 years in Guatemala, for the French Cooperation, the Institute of Nutrition for Central America and Panama and UNIDO. As academic background, she is a food engineer and has a PhD in Economical Geography from Paris University.

Cristina Grandi is IFOAM Chief Food Security Campaigner, was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she earned a University degree in Agronomy. She got a specialization on organic agriculture in Italy and started her collaboration with AIAB, the Italian Association for Organic Agriculture becoming one of their leaders. She is a member of the Board of FIRAB (Italian Foundation for Organic Agriculture). From 2002 she is working for IFOAM Organics International defending Organic Agriculture's point of view in the international arena.

Alexander Koensler is Senior Researcher in Social Anthropology at University of Perugia, Italy. He has carried out extensive fieldwork on coexistence activism in Israel/Palestine and food sovereignty movements in Italy. Between 2016 and 2018 he coordinated the "Peasant Activism Project" (www.peasantproject.org) at Queen's University Belfast, an ethnographic research that focuses on models of alternative certifications as a prism to illuminate politics of transparency.

Marcello Vicovaro is an expert in sustainable markets and value chains in the Nutrition and Food Systems Division at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rome. He works at FAO since 2014 where he focused on the analysis and development of territorial markets (short chains, farmers' markets, etc.) as well as on certification systems and gender-sensitive value chains in several developing countries. He holds a Specialized Master's Degree in Innovations and Policies for Sustainable Food (SupAgro Montpellier, France) and a Masters in Cooperation, Development and Human Rights (University of Bologna, Italy).

Emma Siliprandi, PhD, is the Lead Focal Point at FAO for the Scaling up Agroecology Initiative, launched in 2018 by FAO jointly with UNDP, WFP, IFAD, CBD, UN-Environment and WHO. She coordinated FAO regional projects on food security policies in Latin America and Caribbean for the last 10 years. Professor and researcher in Masters Course on Agroecology in Spain and Brazil.

Sophie Grouwels has a master degree in Social and Political Science of the University of Louvain, Belgium. She worked one year for the EU in Brussels and then 9 years in El Salvador where she covered different positions related to governance, rural development, economic empowerment and gender mainstreaming. Since 1997 she work for FAO, first based in Caracas, Venezuela, and since 2000 she work in the Forestry Department at FAO HQ in Rome, focusing on community based forest enterprise development and Forest and Farm Facility (FFF).