The possible future of corsican chestnut socioecosystem

Topic
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How can we manage the future of chestnut groves and castaneiculture?

Corsican chestnut flour production will continue to face a number of challenges: climate change, lack of generational renewal, over-exploitation of the resource by different value chains, and the inability to generate sufficient technical and organisational innovation. Essentially made up of small farms, the majority of which are pluriactive, the VC will continue to face economic problems, while administrative obstacles (access to land) and the complexity of bureaucracy will exacerbate the situation, especially for pluriactive farming systems.

The MOVING foresight exercise has enabled a preferred scenario to emerge in which all the stakeholders based on the resource cooperate to ensure its sustainability, with the development of the VC as the central driver. In this scenario, producers have adapted to climate change through organic and socio-technical innovations. The farms are improving their productive and commercial efficiency while preserving their knowledge and identity, thanks to the adaptation of the PDO. Corsican chestnut flour is gaining a new competitive edge and new markets. To achieve this, technical innovations (by-products, marketing and production processes such as digitisation) and organisational innovations (cooperative, innovation transfer centre) will ensure the quality, recognition, distribution and profitability of production, as well as the structuring of the VC. In parallel with the efforts being made on the VC, measures will be put in place to ensure the renewal and sustainability of the resource. The socio-ecosystemic dimension provided by chestnut groves is recognised and supported by administrative and compensation measures. The territorial dimension of chestnut groves and the phenomena of coexistence with related CVs are taken into account in a regional public action scheme.

Policies and support programmes encourage multifunctionality, cooperation and generational renewal, guaranteeing access to basic services. Policies are inclusive, flexible and adaptable to the unique character of the Corsican mountains and its agro-pastoralism. Public institutions actively encourage the consumption of local products, reinforce territorial identity/value and centralise the genetic book of Corsican chestnut varieties in order to protect producers' rights.

MOVING receives funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 862739. The content of this document does not reflect the official opinion of the European Union. Responsibility for the information and views expressed therein lies entirely with the author(s).