

Sustainability of agricultural production in the Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park

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INTRODUCTION

What is the Park ?

- A Consortium created in 1998 by different entities.
- A land area of 2.938 hectares in the metropolitan area of Barcelona.
- A management figure of the existing peri-urban spaces.
- A research and development Park with economic activity.
- A strategic value for the environmental harmony of the territory.

OBJECTIVES

- Locate and contextualize historically the Park
- Define it within the totality of the peri-urban spaces.
- Mention the main objectives that have led to its creation.
- Designate the positive externalities.
- Dispel the myths that surround it.
- Know how the Park:
 - promotes the introduction of new agricultural techniques
 - promotes cooperation between farmers and improve the conditions of competitive market access.



Figure 1: Aerial view of the Park. Source: Diputació de Barcelona

PROMOTING NEW AGRICULTURAL TECHNIQUES

Table 2. Examples of rehearsals coordinated by the ADV'S

Antagonists fungus against Armillaria (<i>Armillaria mellea</i>) in cherry tree.
Common marigold (<i>Calendula officinalis</i>) enables pesticides reduction.
Radish (<i>Raphanus sativus</i>) as a natural fertiliser.
Introducing molasses in the ground against nematode <i>Meloidogyne spp.</i>

Source: Author



Table 1. SWOT analysis simplification about the Park

STRENGTHS	Traditional varieties research for increase quality and production. Capacity of provide with PGI products.
WEAKNESSES	Shortly association between producers. Society's uncertainty perception of the area.
OPPORTUNITIES	Available legal tools to protect peri-urban agricultural areas. Increasing awareness about food safety and quality aspects.
THREATS	Urban pressure. Uncontrolled spillage and pollution of water resources.

Source: Author

CONCLUSIONS

- Peri-urban spaces need a management figure.
- Rural-urban fringe should be defined in a new way.
- Society must recognize the rural-urban fringe affecting problems.
- Best sustainable farming methods must be used for producing a large variety and high-quality products.
- ADV's are steadily researching more ecological new farming methods.
- The number of organic system producers has recently increased in the Park, in some instances without certification.
- Agricultural Park's Consortium creation has led the recovery of traditional varieties such as the prune "Miravolants".
- Providing a PGI is an excellent way for recognize and preserve the local products.