
TASK FORCE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

In cooperation with



First meeting of the task force “Sustainable Agriculture in Small Islands”, organized in cooperation with INSULEUR and Instituto Tecnológico de Canarias.

Details

Date: November 3, 2020

Participants:

- **Gonzalo Piernavieja** - Research & Innovation Director, Instituto Tecnológico de Canarias (ITC)
- **Georges Asonitis** - INSULEUR Technical Committee
- **Hiroshi Kakazu** - Professor Emeritus, University of the Ryukyus – *Agriculture as a driver for islands' economy – The case of Okinawa*
- **Ralph Birkhoff** - Founder, Island AgTech – *Climate-smart agriculture project for Barbados (GTI Awards nominee)*
- **Nicos Miliarakis** - Board Member, Wines of Crete
- **Vanessa Raya** - Senior Researcher at the Canary Islands Institute of Agrarian Research (ICIA)
- **Ricardo Díaz** - Head of ITC's Environmental Analysis Dpt.
- **Gianni Chianetta** – Director, GTI
- **Francesco Luise** – GTI Observatory Technical Coordinator
- **Angelo Nogara** – Senior Strategy Development Manager, GTI



Minutes

Key inputs for the task force objectives:

- Promotion of sustainable cultivation of islands;
- Monitor calls/tenders on sustainable agriculture for islands;
- Food sovereignty;
- Private investment attraction;
- Endemic species protection;
- Double focus: employ innovative technologies to increase exports while preserving landscapes and local communities' way of living.

Opportunities:

- Unique quality of islands' products due to their isolation, the characteristics of soil and weather;
- Islands are interested in hosting best practices;
- Demand for innovation in islands: RES, new climate-resistant and high-yield technologies and circular practices can help farmers grow, improving efficiency in the use of water, energy and soil, while creating jobs and economies of scale;
- Green technologies can help protect the quality of endemic products and also be exploited for marketing purposes;
- The importance of clustering: small-size farms can only get bigger by engaging in groups, creating synergies and economies of scale;
- Crowd funding, international calls and tenders;
- Human resource training is important for agriculture sustainable transition but also for islands society in general: the digitalization is a good opportunity to overcome distances.

Challenges:

- Overall decline in the agriculture's share in islands' GDP;
- Overall decline in the level of food self-sufficiency in islands;
- Find synergies between tourism and agriculture:
 - increasing demand of food due to tourists don't match the local production (costs, transportation and waste issues);
 - difficult to create economies of scale for small production, and tourism is taking more and more land away from agriculture;
- Climate change is tropicalizing islands;



- Youth in agriculture (women as well).

Next Steps:

- To define a **sustainable process of cultivation** with case studies;
- To consider adding agriculture to the **GTI Observatory Index** to measure the progress of islands;
- To elaborate **policy recommendations** for regional areas;
- To deepen these topics at the **upcoming workshop** of the GTI e_Convention, establishing a stable dialogue with the EU Commission and disseminating best practices;
- To define a **2021 plan for the GTI task force**, involving the participants to the 3 November meeting and eventually others, as GTI Observatory members, in pursuing the targets discussed in the meeting.

