



policy brief on Milan Food Policy ongoing actions

RURAL-URBAN LINKAGES PERI-URBAN AGRICULTURE AND PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

#FoodPolicyMilano
#EUFoodCities
#MUFPP
#LocalFood
#Agriculture

Cities are innovative living lab to co-create, test and implement local actions for sustainable urban food systems.

Population: 1.366.000 | **Surface:** 181 kmq
Administration: Municipality
City size: 2nd Italian city

Food Policy Agreement (2015-20):
City of Milan, Cariplo Foundation
with the support of Està Research Center

International networks:
MUFPP, Eurocities WG Food,
C40 Food System Network, 100 Resilient Cities
100 Circular Economy, WHO Healthy Cities

Institutional engagement:
Department of Urbanism (Agriculture)
Department of Urban Economy (Open Innovation)
Regional Authority (DG Presidency, Agriculture, Land)
Metropolitan Authority (Agriculture dpr.)
Soutern Milan Agricultural Park

Institutional responsibility: Vice Mayor Anna Scavuzzo
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The **City of Milan developed in 2015 the Milan Food Policy** that acts on the urban food system with a multidimensional approach around five key priorities: **rural-urban linkages** being one of the most important, engaging several local actors such as farmers districts, research centers, other institutions, non profit organizations and foundations.

Within the Food Policy in 2015 the Municipality shall have an active (direct or indirect) role in providing healthy food produced in a sustainable way that caters to several categories: school children, elderly, vulnerable groups and city employees.

The actions for guidelines implementation are:

1. Increase the supply of local quality, sustainable food in school catering and public homes for the elderly;
2. Increase the supply of local quality food produced in a sustainable way, for the elderly and persons in need in all areas of Milan, with new forms of organisation and distribution;
3. Strategically enhance the role of community catering agreements as a tool for guiding the development of a sustainable food system and being an active part in promoting healthy and sustainable eating habits.

From 2016 City of Milan in its Food Policy framework **implement several actions** on the target-areas of multilevel governance, local public procurement and innovative peri-urban agriculture.



Comune di Milano



Milan's agricultural drivers



Milan Municipality
land and farm property
600ha on 2.910ha inside Milan
59 municipal farms (15 active)
on a total of 117 farms

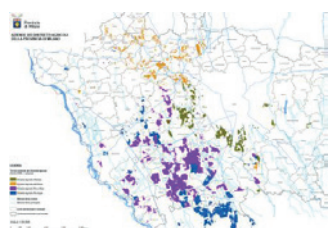


Milan Agricultural District
1.150 ha 31 farms

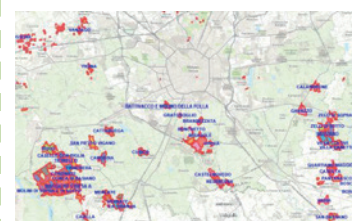


Milan Souther Agricultural Park
47.000 ha on Agricultural Park
3.636 farms

Milan Metropolitan City
67.338 ha in Metropolitan Area
344 million euro of GDP / year



5 Agricultural Districts
Milan Agricultural District
31 farms, 1.150 ha
40% of Milan Municipality land
Rice and Frogs
63 farms, 30.513 ha
DINAMO, 45 farms, 3.880 ha
Olona Valley, 45 farms, 1.500 ha
DAMA



Big player landowner
Hospital foundation
8.500 ha of property
100 farms

Multilevel governance drivers for rural-urban link

Metropolitan Rural Agreement

In 2012 the Municipality of Milan developed a **Framework Agreement for Territorial Development "Milan Rural Metropolis"** which connects the Municipality, the Metropolitan authority, the Regional authority, 4 Agricultural Districts, 2 river basin authorities, in a **public-private partnership (PPP)** to act on rural-urban linkages with a 102 actions plan for a total value of 144 Million Euro, of which 26 already allocated through the strategic reorientation of ordinary funds.

The Food Policy is part of this agreement through rural-urban links actions. The agreement considered rural and urban communities as equal players in a win-win game where one each other they can exchange knowledge, culture, development models, traditions, values, investments. The balance among territories are a presumption for the competitiveness of the whole areas towards a local sustainable development that involves cultural, social, economic and environmental aspects.



114 Millions euro
102 actions planned

South Milan Agricultural Park

A green belt of 47,000 hectares around Milan that includes 61 municipalities, with protected areas, itineraries, many initiatives and events.

The Sud Milan Agricultural Park aims to safeguard farming, crops and woodlands, to protect the natural environment, enhance the historical and architectural heritage, recover the environment and landscape in degraded areas, to educate visitors about the park and how to respectfully use its environmental resources. The park is characterised by its dense agricultural crops, punctuated by a rich network of natural waterways and canals and a rural road system. Corn fields alternate with water meadows; rows of trees mark the borders of the fields and run next to the waterways.

The abundance of water is one of the area's most significant environmental resources that contribute to making this extremely precious ecosystem.



47.000 hectares
3.636 farms

Periurban



Farms



Local Public Procurement for School Canteens

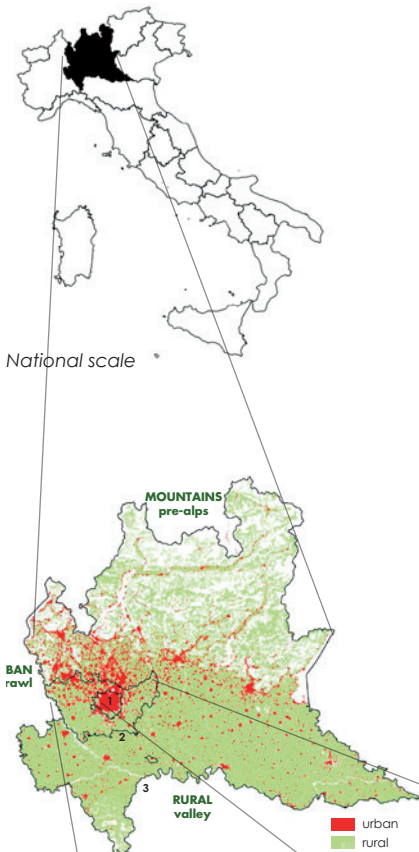
19 horticultural local supply chains

In 2016, the Food Policy acted to connect **school canteens public procurement** in Milan with the supply chain of rice through the Milanese Agricultural District (180.000 kilo/year for a value of € 300,000/year). The know-how of this experience works now as grounds for further scalability by making available **19 horticultural supply chains** for school canteens public procurement.

Within the **Rural Development Program** (2nd pillar of EU Common Agricultural Policy, CAP) managed by Regional Authority, an Integrated Area Plan was created with 31 Milan partners reorienting investments of agricultural farms for the value of **4 million Euro**.

Inside this Plan, agroecology/biodiversity investments are connected to the conversion of cultures related to the horticultural supply chains.

This process **capitalizes the outputs of 13 different projects**, started in 2010 and promoted by foundations, social actors, Regional authorities and the Municipality.

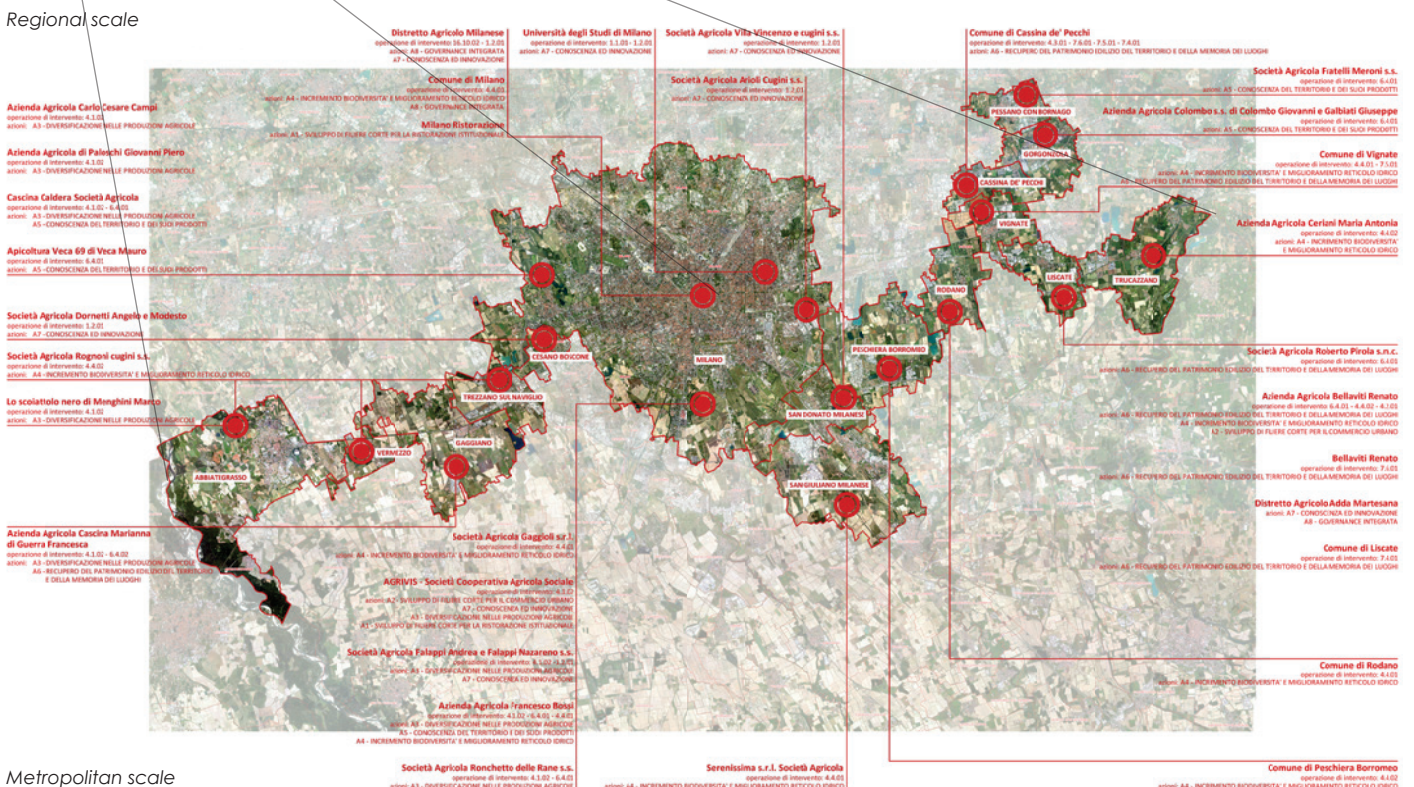


National scale

Regional scale

Lessons learned:

- It is necessary to fill in the information **gaps between rural and urban** areas and stakeholders on the topics of funding opportunities.
- The presence of **facilitators** that could act as free actor among farmers, agricultural districts, municipal agencies and urban actors is fundamental to improve **common plans with added value**.
- **Existing institutional tools** must always be used at their best to share goals for common opportunities.



Metropolitan scale

New skills for new jobs in periurban agriculture

The project will create an **“Open Innovation Hub on Peri-Urban Agriculture”** in Municipal Farm Nosedo, an ancient farmhouse located in southern part of the city, an area defined as “urban fringe”, representing the transition zone between rural and urban. The **Municipal Farm Nosedo** will be re-structured and will serve as a **innovative living lab** for social inclusion, jobs and skills creation, open innovation along the food system while increasing the level of resilience and sustainability of the city.

Openagri launched in February 2018 an **Urban Agriculture Lab** within the area of Cascina Nosedo. The Lab will explore innovative techniques in urban agriculture (from production to logistic, from Internet of Food to sharing economy) and it will engage a series of selected partners on using in the best possible way a public owned 33 hectares plot of land. The Lab is primarily set to **help entrepreneurs to develop new practices** in Peri-Urban agriculture, to create new job opportunities and to revitalise a fringe area of the City

The project will result in **improved interactions** between traditional knowledge holders and other more innovative actors between local and citywide realities engaged in product, services or process innovation.

It is also expected to foster **cross-sector linkages and hybridization** between different fields (agriculture, food industry, culture, education...) and actors (SMEs, CSOs, Local Authorities) with the ultimate aim of testing an innovation-driven inclusive growth model.

European UIA project
OpenAgri



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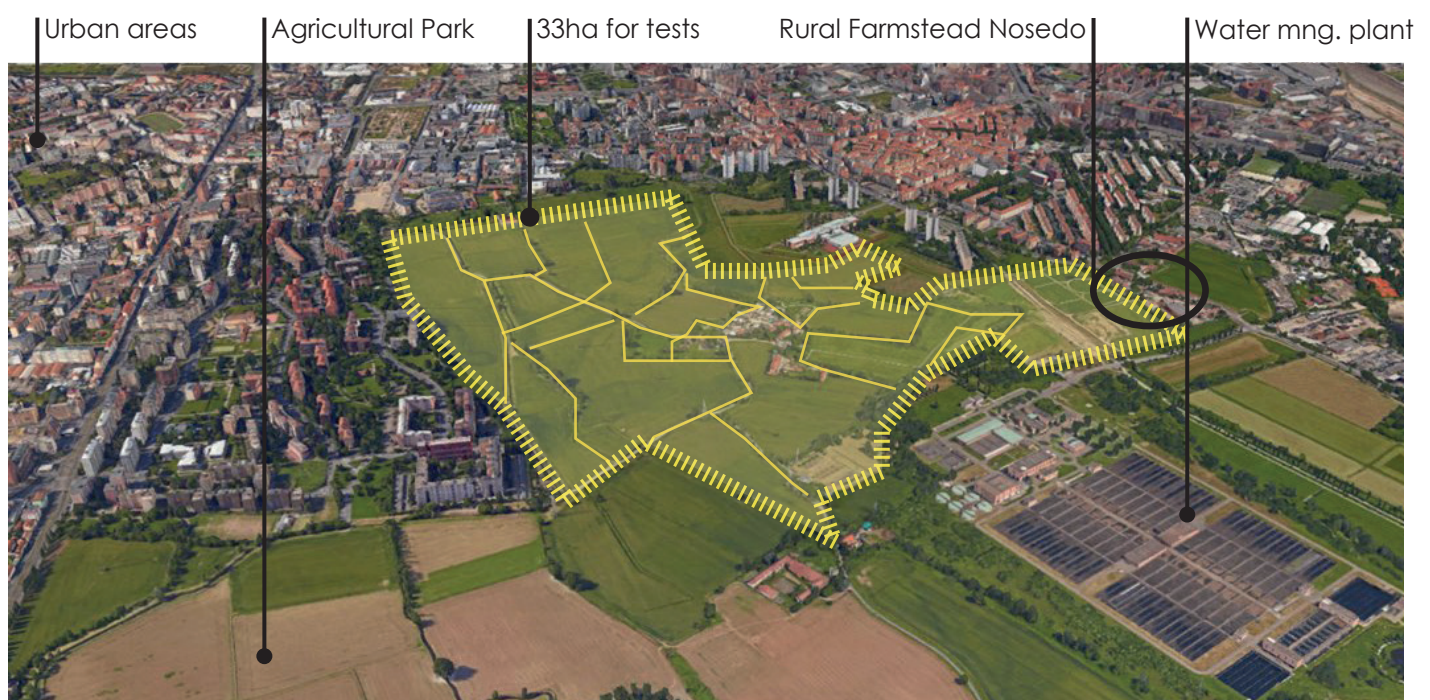
Facebook: [@OpenAgriMilano](https://www.facebook.com/OpenAgriMilano)



*"We have the opportunity to act on some of the priorities related to the growth of our City: the **development of peri-urban areas**, the support to entrepreneurship and the **implementation of the Milan Food Policy**.*

*We will invest in the regeneration of Porto di Mare area turning it into an attractive pole to host innovative **entrepreneurial ideas** and start-up in the **agri-food sector**."*

Giuseppe Sala, Mayor of Milan



OpenAgri map