





# SPRINGBOARD PLAN - MILANO

Urban and peri-urban agriculture in Milan food system





















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### 1. GLOSSARY

**Agricultural Districts:** a territorial district characterized by a historical and homogeneous identity deriving from the integration between agricultural activities and other local activities, as well as from the production of goods or services of particular specificity, consistent with the traditions and vocations of the.

**AQST "Milan Rural Metropolis"**: The Framework Agreement for Territorial Development (AQST) unites and establishes the commitment of public and private entities in the consolidation of the rural matrix of the Milanese metropolitan area.

The agreement was promoted by the Lombardy Region, and is coordinated by the Municipality of Milan, and is based on the recognition of the role that integrated rural systems and multifunctional agriculture can play in relation to the containment of land consumption, the provision of services (ecosystems, cultural, social ..), to the construction of new relationships between urban and rural realities. The active presence of agricultural districts is a strong point in this context.

**Milan Food Policy:** is the set of 5 priorities approved by the City Council in 2015 that guides the Municipality toward a more sustainable and inclusive food system at urban level.

**MIPAFF** - Ministry of agriculture and forestry

MM spa: integrated water service provider of the City of Milan, in house company

**NGOs**': non governmental organizations

SP: Springboard Plan

**UIA Open Agri**: Urban Innovaitve Action "Open Agri" is the project leaded by the City of Milan that











# 2. THE POLICY CONTEXT

### 2.1 Need Analysis in the Territorial Context

The "OpenAgri" legacy and state of the art

In 2016 the Municipality of Milan submitted the project proposal "OpenAgri. New Skills for New Jobs in Peri-urban Agriculture" to the first call of the Urban Innovative Actions. The initiative, led by the DG Regio, offered urban authorities the possibility to take a risk and experiment with the most innovative and creative solutions. Its main objective was to provide urban areas throughout Europe with resources to test innovative solutions to the main urban challenges and see how these work in practice and respond to the complexity of real life. Based on article 8 of ERDF, the Initiative had a total ERDF budget of EUR 372 million for 2014-2020.

The OpenAgri project was one of the winning projects in the call for proposals, with total funding of euro 4.900.000 (ERDF funds, 80%), plus euro 1.250.000 as a contribution by the consortium (public/private funds, 20%).

OpenAgri has been implemented by a large consortium composed of the Municipality of Milan and 15 local delivery partners including 2 universities; 4 research centres; 1 think tank; 1 training centre; 3 NGOs; the local Chamber of Commerce; 1 incubator for start-ups and tech companies; and 2 private companies.

The need for OpenAgri comes from the growing awareness by the municipal administration in recent years that peri-urban agriculture plays a fundamental role in the metabolism of the city since it is an activity capable not only of producing food but also of contributing to the protection of the environment, landscape and culture. More specifically, the focus of the project on food comes from the emerging role played by the latter on the policy agenda (both at the local and EU level). At the time of the project's design, food was no longer considered as a commodity or as a nutritional necessity, but rather as an emerging policy challenge affecting different dimensions. It was found to encompass ecological concerns (e.g., loss of biodiversity and overconsumption of water, related to traditional agricultural activity), social and public health problems (e.g. food scarcity), economics (e.g. short supply chains, delivery and consumption), spatial and city planning strategies (e.g. urban-rural linkages, farmhouses reconversion, agricultural land preservation).

OpenAgri addressed the multidimensional challenges affecting the Nosedo-Porto di Mare target area. Together with agricultural lands, ancient farmlands, and historical sites (e.g., Chiaravalle Abbey), the target area accommodates what the city has rejected and expelled over the years: discos, scrapyards, Roma camps, disadvantaged groups, etc. On the other hand, this area boasts important endowments (e.g., availability of land, a water treatment plant) and significant social resources (in terms of NGOs and community actors that work here) which can contribute to the growth of the city.











At the core of the project, there was the creation of an open innovation hub on Peri-Urban Agriculture in Cascina Nosedo, an ancient farmhouse located in Porto di Mare. The overall rationale of the project was that the renovated site of Cascina Nosedo should serve as a living lab for social inclusion, jobs and skills creation, open innovation along the food supply chain while increasing the level of resilience and sustainability of the city. Beyond the renovation of the site (the territorial and urban dimensions of the project), different integrated solutions were proposed by the project to address the multiple challenges affecting the area: developing projects involving SMEs and start-ups (entrepreneurial dimension), community-led initiatives for social inclusion (social dimension), new approach and tools for food production and delivery (technology and innovation dimension). Overall, by focusing on different policy dimensions, the project addresses three main priorities related to the growth of Milan city including the development of peri-urban areas, support to entrepreneurship and the implementation of Milan's Food Policy.

### The Milan Food Policy and other relevant policy framework

In 2015 the City of Milan developed the **Milan Food Policy** that acts on the local 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 centres, other local institutions, not for profit organisations and foundations.

Through the Food Policy implementation, the Municipality promoted 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 healthy and sustainable food in school feeding programs; (2) increase the supply of local food produced in a sustainable way, for vulnerable groups in Milan, with new models of organisation and distribution; (3) strategically enhance the role of public meals as a tool for leading the development of a sustainable food system and being an active part in promoting healthy and sustainable eating habits. From 2016 Milan is implementing several actions on the target-areas of multilevel governance, local public procurement, and innovative peri-urban agriculture.

Development AQST named "Milan Rural Metropolis" which engaged the Municipality, the Metropolitan authority, the Regional authority, 5 Agricultural Districts, 2 river basin authorities, in a public-private partnership (PPP) to act on rural-urban linkages with a 98 actions plan for a total value of about 90 Million Euro, of which half 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 winwin game to exchange knowledge, promote culture, and develop models of innovative investments. The balance among territories is the rationale for the











competitiveness of the whole area towards a local sustainable development that involves cultural, social, economic and environmental aspects.

A green belt of 47,000 hectares around Milan that includes 61 municipalities, with protected areas, itineraries, many initiatives, and events is the **South Milan Agricultural Park.** The park is a legal entity that aims to protect farming, crops and woodlands and the natural environment, enhance the historical and architectural heritage, recover the environment and landscape in degraded areas, and educate visitors about the park and how to respectfully use its environmental resources. 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.

In this context, several activities related to urban and peri-urban agriculture have been developed with the aim of creating a favourable environment for the increasing of sustainable urban agriculture and provide positive impacts on the achievements of the Food Policy goals.

### 2.2 The Policy Response – Strategic Vision

The role of urban and peri-urban agriculture could be improved and increased to support future challenges such as sustainable production and consumption and the climate impact of food. This is of particular interest at urban level.

The City of Milan started to create a positive context where innovative practices can be activated, and nowadays major challenges rely on some aspects:

- a) **the economic opportunities** related to the development of urban agriculture Economic opportunities in the agricultural sector should be promoted and the ones related to organic agriculture, public procurement and local markets.
- b) **the social impacts** created by a multifunctional agricultural environment

  Social impacts related to the development of different activities in urban agriculture are well known and progressively increasing but need support and engagement
- c) the innovation and research potential connected to the agricultural field

  Innovation and research connected to agriculture are fundamental in order to reach a high level of sustainability and inclusion through the promotion of new practices.

The approval and ongoing implementation of recent policies such as the **Food Policy** together with the lessons learnt provided by different projects on agriculture, such as the "UIA OpenAgri" give the opportunity to upgrade the efforts and











investments in the agricultural field and to promote new long-term objectives to be achieve through innovation and sustainable practices.

According to this, it will be important to define **future and possible actions** that could be taken to promote innovative paths to sustainability, linking different sectors, actors, tools and practices. Considering these factors, the Springboard plan will set up the framework of actions that will allow the city to increase its policy making capacity and to respond to emerging issues in the field of urban agriculture.

This vision will also be linked to the vision that is also guiding the city of Milan within the several international Networks that it is committed to such as the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, C40, Eurocities.

### 3. THE PROCESS TO BUILT THE SPRINGBOARD PLAN

### 3.1 Background to the Proposal

### URBACT UTM process: from UIA OpenAgri to NextAgri

One of the goals of OpenAgri was that the different international networks in which the City of Milan play an active role can trigger the transferability of the project. With this in view, Milan has successfully participated in the new initiative called "UIA transfer Mechanism", where Urban Innovative Actions and URBACT come together to put into practice the lessons learnt from the Transfer Networks. The initiative experiment will support a group of EU cities (Almere, Vila Nova de Gaia, Stara Zagora) to understand, adapt and prepare to re-use the OpenAgri practice through the co-creation of an investment plan. Given the innovative and experimental nature of the project, different types of knowledge and learning were identified and unpacked for transfer to other cities. These learnings relate to:

- an approach to urban regeneration that integrates the jobs and skills perspective with that of an area-based project;
- an integrated strategy to address the issue of Job and Skills by building on existing qualities and assets, mobilising companies and citizens to innovate, and engage them in the discovery of promising new specialisations;
- a multiplicity of policy and project tools that can be concretely adapted to different contexts

The Knowledge transfer process started from these learnings and consisted of five main pillars and is structured by five modules:

- 1) The role of open innovation in developing an entrepreneurial support ecosystem
- 2) Educational & Training (the "Food Innovator")
- 3) Rethinking agricultural land use management in peri-urban areas (An innovative "Masterplan")











- 4) Resilient and integrated urban development
- 5) Long term sustainability

#### Beyond UIA OpenAgri: innovation to create new territorial investments

OpenAgri has innovativeness on the strong integration between the jobs and skills perspectives and the area-based dimension or the territorial one. There is a more "obvious" relationship, given the fact that UIA aims at developing and testing innovative solutions on specific target areas. Considering the specific territorial issue of peri-urban agriculture, OpenAgri tried to bridge agroecology principles with economic innovation goals (jobs and skills).

In practice, OpenAgri demonstrates that it is possible to support new companies and projects aimed at the sustainability of food chains and at the same be impactful in terms of urban and territorial regeneration and landscape design. Agroecology and economic development as a synthesis for new public policies aimed at sustainability of local food systems.

OpenAgri boosted innovation in peri-urban agriculture, through the creation of a new hub on peri-urban agriculture and, at the end of the project, **a new strategic partnership with a strategic stakeholder** (Metropolitana Milanese spa, inhouse company of Municipality of Milan) was defined to develop a wider area of the Nosedo Farm to ensure sustainability beyond UIA fund. Given the strategic role and excellence of the Milan-Nosedo Wastewater Treatment Plant, OpenAgri after UIA aims at creating an innovation hub serving a bigger part of the agricultural park, with a strong focus on water management and circular economy.

After UIA, the Nosedo area is expected to become a landmark for new peri-urban farmers and citizens, an agro-circular economy hub as a starting point for new activities partly tested during implementation, such as: water management, reuse of sewage sludge and production for natural fertilizer, incubating new start-ups on the circular economy, and developing new products

# 3.2 The Adapted Version of the UIA Project

In parallel with the Investment Plan by the partner cities, the Springboard plan is intended as an opportunity for Milan to exploit the UIA project results by developing a new plan to accelerate actions on peri-urban agriculture in connection with the main local initiatives/policies of the Municipality.

The plan responds to three main objectives:

 Create feedback loops from the UIA project results to the main policies and initiatives in the domain of peri-urban agriculture also based on the current reorganisation of competence areas (food policy, environmental transition, economic development and urban regeneration);











- Identify levers to ensure the durability of the UIA investment (Cascina Nosedo as a new Hub for peri-urban agriculture and urban metabolism);
- Open up new project opportunities for public and private actors in the local area and citywide, in connection with the Milan Food Policy and the AQST Framework Agreement for Territorial Development called "Milan Rural Metropolis" (an action plan addressing several macro-objectives, such as improvement of the irrigation system, landscape and environmental restoration, multi-functionality, valorisation of rural culture, and innovation in production, distribution and marketing)

The overall/ transversal goal is to identify new connections with strategic policy lines also based on the current reorganisation of competencies (food policy, environmental transition, economic development, and urban regeneration) to incubate new projects and opportunities

The springboard plan will act as a lever to bring to the attention of policy makers several strategic objectives to be pursued over the next 5 years. The plan will provide paths, stakeholder engagement methods, new policy instruments and tools for the implementation of the planned actions.

The drafting of the SP started with internal coordination and meetings with the ULG that provided feedback on ideas and proposed actions.

Regarding the aspects of the UIA project that the plan intends to develop, we can summarise them as follows:

### 1. Sustainability and "Innovation transfer"

Guaranteeing the continuation of an experimental project after the cease of EU funding is one of the hardest challenges, and it has always proved difficult to find and develop a universally valid sustainability model. OpenAgri's experience and efforts in trying to ensure a long-term future to the project may however provide insightful learning in terms of continuation of business operations, networking and activations of local stakeholders, policy mainstreaming.

### Main Objectives:

- transferring the innovations experimented thanks to UIA within a medium-long term strategy by accompanying the new manager of the Hub;
- ensuring the area's vocation of experimentation laboratory, where new ideas and solutions may be tested on a rolling basis, in a continuous innovation loop.

#### Replicability of innovative and sustainable food production systems

OpenAgri has piloted medium-scale aquaponics systems in a peri-urban area, which provides innovative technologies to combine fish farming with plant and vegetable cultivation, using water and fish waste to feed the plants. This technology fits well for different application scenarios - from the "at-home backyard food production" scale to the industrial one - and lends itself well to experiments in the reuse of abandoned urban spaces. Both aquaponics and











hydroponics suggest possible ways of production based on sustainability criteria (products are grown close to their destination with the reduced environmental impact of logistics; use of renewable sources and water-saving techniques; potential to provide real-time monitoring data...) and have the potential to generate new economic opportunities at the urban level.

### Main Objectives:

- consolidating and assessing the tested solution;
- replicating part of the solution in other projects and policies led by the Municipality and/or promoted by private partners.

In addition to the follow-up of the UIA project, there are some new project opportunities for public and private actors in the local area and citywide, in connection with the Milan Food Policy and the AQST – Framework Agreement for Territorial Development called "Milan Rural Metropolis".

These actions will mainly focus on:

- the **strengthening of market opportunities** connecting different operators (from the fields to the market through the agricultural districts)
- the **spreading of knowledge** and best practices on sustainable agriculture and short supply chain among farmers and agricultural districts
- the setting up of a favorable policy framework to facilitate participation and innovative processes
- the promotion of **educational and awareness raising activates** realised by farmers and other organisations to promote sustainable production and consumption

This approach has given the chance to combine the actions already implemented by UIA with the overall vision of an integrated food system.











### 3.3 The Integrated Approach and the Participative Process

### 3.3.1 Methodology

To make this plan working effectively and to organise it in a specific time, it is necessary to create a cooperative strategy in a favourable environment.

The plan consists of a set of several actions that will involve the related communities of actors. It is believed to focus the plan on a two-level sharing activity:

- Internal consultation to put the base for solid and strong participation at the municipal level. This is to avoid the creation of barriers to the development of these processes. The activities consist in:
  - a) selection of municipal department interested:
    - 1. economic development
    - 2. environment
    - 3. education
    - 4. welfare
    - 5. food policy
  - b) organisation of meetings to share and validate the actions
  - c) validation of the actions

**External stakeholders' involvement**, already activated with the ULG group and through the involvement of new actors in the following phases according to the identified actions.

Additionally, other strategic actors such as the in-house companies of the City of Milan: Milano Ristorazione, Sogemi, MM (school canteens, general wholesale market and water management and infrastructures), will be invited to join the process of the implementation of the actions and the related monitoring.

### 3.3.2 ULG group and meetings

The main stakeholders organised by interests have been involved in consultative meetings on some of the actions that could be part of the plan and they will be involved and become fundamental for the further implementation phase of the pilot actions.











TABLE 1 - ULG actors involved, and city stakeholders interested

Туре	Public/private	Possible Actors	Role	Type of participation	ULG meetings participation
Municipal Agencies in house companies	In house/private	Milano Ristorazione, SogeMi, MM, CAP, A2A-AMSA, AMAT	Provision of services or improvement of public services provided consultative provision	Companies subject to the address and control of the municipal administration	MM - ULG meeting N.3
Other public institutions	Public	Regione Lombardia, Città Metropolitana, Parco Agricolo Sud Milano,	Institutional subsidiary planning, authorization processes, consultative provision	Already involved in pre-existing agreements pursuant to art. 34 of Legislative Decree no. 267/2000 or LR 02/2003	Lombardy Region and Milan South Agricultural Park - ULG meeting N.1 and 2
Agricultural Districts	Private	Farmers districts: DAM, DAMA, DINAMO, Riso & Rane, DAVO	Aggregation of agricultural districts and farmers Role of advisor	Already involved in the 'AQST Milano Metropoli Rurale	All farmers districts in ULG meeting N.1 and 2
Unions or other stakeholders' representatives	Private	Confagricoltura, CIA, Coldiretti, AIAB, AGO, ACMO, Consorzio Produttori Ortofrutticoli Milano	Business aggregation, Role of advisor	Direct invitation	To be involved in the implementation phase
Universities and research centers	Research	UNIMI, Bicocca, Politecnico	Consultation and project proposal	Direct invitation and public tender procedures	To be involved in the implementation phase
No profit and third sector organizations	Social	environmental organisations	Consultation role	Direct invitation and public tender procedures	To be involved in the implementation phase
Economic actors within the market	Private	Farms, representatives of agricultural markets, single or associated companies	Role of consultation and service provision	Direct invitation and public tender procedures	To be involved in the implementation phase

With the use of the Urbact methodology, the stakeholders' interests on the actions proposed have been mapped and they will become a part of the final plan.











The process of consultation, the first drafting and further implementation is described as follows:

**TABLE 2 - Timeline** 

ACTION	TIME	STATE OF THE ART
Editing of the first draft of the pilot actions	9 months	completed (December 2021 - February 2022)
Stakeholders' involvement through dedicated ULG meetings	5 months	completed (February - June 2022)
Editing of the final draft and selection of the pilot actions	2 months	completed (September - October 2022)
Delivery of the pilot actions and monitoring	14 months (Nov - Dec 2022, Jan- Dec 2023))	Specific pilot actions and monitoring have started their implementation (ref. section on pilot actions) (July 2022 - November 2023)











# 4. OUR PROPOSAL

### 4.1 The Value Proposition

The Springboard Plan (SP) drafted by the City of Milan, contains the outline of the main pathways that will be followed to achieve specific objectives in the field of innovative and sustainable agriculture. This is a result of a first analysis that provided an overview of possible actions, analysed in the NextAgri project.

The aim of this Springboard Plan is to facilitate a policy-making process that will involve different actors and stakeholders, it will cover priorities identified by the Food Policy department for what concerns agriculture and the related sustainability aspects (economic, social, and environmental).

This plan is mainly focused on the **prioritisation of processes and actions** to be implemented rather than on the setting up of investment plans dedicated to specific actions. That is possible because financial support has already been provided through the UIA project and other specific needs will be evaluated in the ongoing process.

The main priorities that need to be addressed with this plan are:

- the facilitation of policy-making processes that support sustainable agriculture
- the promotion of engagement tools for local stakeholders to be involved in public tenders and local actions
- the promotion of monitoring and evaluating tools related to the actions promoted

Considering this, the SP will be an operating tool for the City of Milan, to plan actions but also to assess their effectiveness and to set up different objectives in the short, medium, and long term.

The plan will indeed:

- provide an overview of the potential actions: to be implemented in the long term (Ref. Table 2 Actions and outputs p.18)
- **provide the implementation plan** for these selected activities and monitor the ongoing achievements of the outputs.











### a. First draft of the Springboard Plan (December 2021 - February 2022)

### TABLE 3 - Actions and outputs initial SP (2021/2022)

The following table describes a selection of priorities identified during the editing of the first draft of the SP (December 2021 - February 2022).

N	Issues	Focal point	Output	Outcome	Municipal competencies	Area of interests
1 A	Large scale distribution contracts	Food Policy AQST	Supply contract	Spreading of market opportunities for short supply chain	Agriculture Economic development	Urban
2 A	Green Public Procurement	Food Policy AQST	Call for tenders with GPP	Promote short supply chain and practices related to sustainability	Education Economic dev. Agriculture Milano Ristorazione	Urban
3 A	ForestaMi and agricultural districts	AQST	To be defined	Spreading of opportunities for agricultural districts and farmers	Environment	Rural
4 A	Farmers Markets	Food Policy AQST	Monitoring and Community of practices	Spreading of markets opportunities for local producers	Agriculture Economic dev.	Urban
5 A	Renting contracts for agriculture	AQST	Renewal of renting contracts for agriculture	or Promote the value of urban farms and farming Agriculture		Rural
6 A	Agricultural district contract	AQST Food Policy	Project proposal of a contract	ract Strengthen links among districts Agriculture Economic dev.		Rural Urban
7 B	Beekeeping	Food Policy AQST	Type of authorization and pilot areas	Promote the beekeeping activity in Milan  Agriculture Economic dev		Urban
8 B	Organic Agriculture	Food Policy AQST	Regulatory device to shift to organic agriculture	to Increase the total amount of organic surface cultivated  Agriculture Environment Economic dev. Education		Rural
9 B	Aquaponic and Hydroponic	Open Agri Food Policy	Regulatory device and pilot areas	Promote new productive opportunities based on innovative techniques out land	Agriculture Economic development	Urban











					Environment	
10 B	Cascina Nosedo	Open Agri	Development and monitoring of the MM project	Promote opportunities connected to circular economy	Agriculture Economic dev. Environment	Rural
11 B	Agrivoltaics	AQST	Working group AQST	Monitoring and support	Environment Agriculture Economic dev.	Rural
12 C	Social Agriculture	Food Policy	Monitoring and Community of Practices	Promote market and social opportunities	Agriculture Welfare Economic dev.	Urban Rural
13 C	School Gardens	Food Policy	Monitoring and Community of practices	Promote new school gardens	Education Agriculture Environment	Urban

**Legend -** Areas of interests of each action: A – Economic, B – Innovation and experimental, C – Social











These actions have been identified and proposed according to the:

#### PILLARS OF THE NEXTAGRI PROJECT

- 1) open innovation: develop an entrepreneurial support ecosystem (le: co design of open call)
- 2) education and training: programmes tailored to the needs at local level
- 3) innovative land-use management in peri urban areas
- 4)resilient, integrated urban development: inclusive and resilient growth by taking a place based approach to employment and skills strategies
- 5) long term sustainability

#### AREA OF INTERESTS SPECIFIED BY THE POLICY MAKERS

- A. Economic
- B. Experimental/pilot
- C. Social

#### - 7 PILLARS OF THE AQST AGREEMENT ex LR 2/2003

- Macroation 1- Strengthening and improvement of the irrigation system
- Macroation 2 Regualification and environmental landscape enhancement
- Macroation 3 Land improvement
- Macroation 4 Product, process, and supply chain innovation
- Macroaction 5 Multifunctionality
- Macroation 6 Enhancement and promotion of the territory and rural culture
- Macroation 7 Consolidation of the AQST development strategy

### - 5 PRIORITIES OF THE MILAN FOOD POLICY (DGC 25/2015)

- 1) Ensure access to healthy, safe food and water
- 2) Promote the sustainability of the food system
- 3) Educate on healthy and sustainable food
- 4) Tackling food waste
- 5) Support local agri-food research











### a. <u>Final Draft of the Springboard Plan (September - October 2022)</u>

# TABLE 4 - Actions and outputs selected through NextAgri project

After the involvement of ULG stakeholders and the discussion with external Urbact Experts, the actions put in Table 2, have been shortlisted by the City of Milan and they will be part of the plana and monitored due to the future implementation phase.

The selected actions are:

N	Issues	Focal point	Output	Outcome	Municipal competencies	Area of interests
6A	Agricultural district contract	AQST Food Policy	Project proposal of a contract	Strengthen links among districts	Agriculture Rural Urban	
7B	Beekeeping	Food Policy AQST	Type of authorization and pilot areas	Promote the beekeeping activity in Milan	Agriculture Urban Economic dev.	
10B	Cascina Nosedo	Open Agri	Development and monitoring of the MM project	Promote opportunities connected to circular economy	nected to circular Economic dev.	
11B	Agrivoltaics	AQST	Working group AQST	QST Monitoring and support Environment Agriculture Economic dev.		Rural
12C	Social Agriculture	Food Policy	Monitoring and Community of Practices	Promote market and social opportunities  Agriculture Welfare Economic dev.		Rural Urban











# 4.2 Action 6A - Agricultural districts Contracts

Adapted from Module	3. INNOVATIVE LAND-USE MANAGEMENT IN PERI URBAN AREAS
	In the Metropolitan Area of Milan, 5 Rural Districts are operating, all joined into AQST – "Milano Rural Metropolis", with the scope of strengthening the agricultural and rural vocation of the area. To reinforce cooperation between stakeholders, this action will launch a planning for the V Tender for Districts Contracts in program for spring 2022.
	Districts Contracts are one of the most valuable instruments to support agro-industrial policies in Italy. They involve all the subjects of the agro-industrial chain and the MIPAFF (Ministry of Agro-Forestry Policies), with the scope of revamp investments in the industry to realise integrated and inter-branch investment plans with national relevance. They concern the whole agricultural production and cover all the various stages of the manufacturing chain (production, transformation, sale and distribution of agricultural and agri-food products).
Project Short Description	Contracts' grants vary according to the different type of investments with projects financeable from four up to <b>50 million of euro that can be used for:</b> investments in primary production, transformation and sale of agricultural products, promotion and advertisement of certified/organic products, research, and experimentation.
	The project foresees the following activities:
	<ul> <li>Analysis of design opportunities between the Districts to develop concepts and ideas to discuss with local stakeholders and shareholders.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Technical assistance to design and create the project proposal and to draft advocacy reports both internally for the local administrations which are part of the AQST (Municipality, Region and Città Metropolitana) and externally to the MIPAFF.</li> </ul>











-	Developing a shared plan between all AQST Districts to work on a District Contract to apply for the V MIPAFF Tender 2022/ 2023.
Links to others city strategy	The action pursues the following local goals:  - Food Policy of Milan, Target 2.2, 2.3 (DDC 25/2015)  - AQST Macro-action 4 "Product, process and chain innovation – Activity M4.A2.13  - PNRR complementary funding DL 59/2021  - Districts Contracts L.289/2002
	Education Department Food Policy Department











Stakeholders to involve (from or outside the ULG)	With the aim of developing a shared planning, the project seeks to involve internal and external actors.  Municipal actors, within the internal organisation (Departments, Vice Mayor office/cabinet, in-house companies for school catering and wholesale market)  City actors, outside the Municipality:  Regione Lombardia – Agriculture Direction  Città Metropolitana - Parco Agricolo Sud Milano  Distretto Agricolo Milanese - DAM and the other 4 districts  AQST Milano Metropoli Rurale
Timescales and Spend profile	<ul> <li>January/February 2022: first ULG meeting and analysis of implementation opportunities for the year 2022</li> <li>February 2022: monitoring of the launch of the call and facilitation of possible projects ideas with ULG/AQST members</li> <li>July 2022: call launched by the Ministry of Agriculture for project submission with October 2022</li> <li>October 2022: postponement of the call</li> </ul>
Financial sources	Internal staff of the Municipality, no extra budget has been spent











# Workplan – Delivery Plan 2023

Actions	Objective	Timescale	Outputs	Monitor Progress
IODDOTTIINITIAS DATWAAN		By the end 2022	first list of partners to be involved	Launch of the new call for proposal on Contract District (2023)
to design and create the	To support Districts in project design and administrative support for submission	2023	Project proposal elaborated  Partnership created	Districts confirmation of participation in this process and delivery of the project proposal











# 4.3 Action 7B - Beekeeping

Adapted from Module	2. EDUCATION AND TRAINING, 3 INNOVATIVE LAND USE MANAGEMENT
Project Short Description	The activity of pollinating insects contributes to the production of seeds of most of the spontaneous and agricultural plant species and represents a precious safeguard of biodiversity. The decline of pollinating insects (bees, butterflies, bumblebees, etc.) due to the progressive disappearance of natural habitats is a very topical issue.  In the territory of the Municipality of Milan there is an ecological network that could be enriched by the presence of a network of beehive installations well distributed throughout the city. The increase in the planting of tree species envisaged by the ForestaMi project will contribute to increasing biodiversity. In the Municipality of Milan, several analysis projects are underway on the presence of pollinating insects, estimating in 29 species of diurnal butterflies of probable or possible presence in Milan (ImpollinaMi, 2017) and in 60 species / morphospecies of bees belonging to 17 different genera present in Milan (ApiGis, 2021). In Europe and in Italy, several cities have policies and strategies for the spread of urban beekeeping (Paris, Lubligna, Cesena, London, Cremona, Bergamo, etc) from which you can learn innovative solutions.  The project involves the construction of a permanent community of practice between the Milanese actors active in professional and amateur beekeeping by acting on:  participatory mapping of productive, didactic, research, demonstration and amateur initiatives in the city;  analysis of the regulatory framework and of the barriers to the dissemination of pilot and productive experiences;  analysis of distribution methods (CAM for school catering purchases, agricultural markets, large distribution, direct sales, e-commerce) to open up new market spaces;  start-up of the productive and didactic apiary whose feasibility was assessed in the Gallaratese district (Via Lampugnano) with the installation of 20 hives, for the production of about 400kg of honey / year and meetings for schools;  identification of new areas to be used for urban beekeepin











	Municipal Botanical Museum.
Project objectives	<ul> <li>The action will pursue the following objectives:</li> <li>improvement of the pollination ecosystem service also to the advantage of urban horticulture and Milanese agriculture;</li> <li>identify urban areas for urban beekeeping to be used for the production of amateur and professional honey;</li> <li>promote information and knowledge on the values of beekeeping and honey;</li> <li>support the local distribution of honey products in public purchases and other forms of market</li> </ul>
Links to others city strategy	The action pursues the following local goals:  • Food Policy Milano, target 2.1; 2.2; 2.3; 3.1 (DCC 25/2015)  • AQST Macroaction 4, chain and innovative processes  • C40 Cities <u>Urban Nature Declaration</u> Triennal beekeeping Lombardy region plan 2020-22
Project focal points	Food Policy Department
Stakeholders to involve (from or outside the ULG):	With the aim of developing a shared planning, the project seeks to involve internal and external actors.  Municipal actors, within the internal organisation (Departments, Vicemayor office, in-house companies for school catering and wholesale market)  City actors, outside the Municipality:  universities  municipalities on the Milan metropolitan area  farmers and agricultural districts  Lombardy region  schools











Dionie.	February - March 2022 - Mapping and interviews with stakeholders  March - April 2022 - Analysis of the policy framework in the issue











# Workplan – Delivery Plan 2023

Actions	Objective	Timescale	Outputs	Monitor Progress
A1. Monitoring activites on Milan urban beekeeping	To promote the urban beekeeping among Milan farmers and want-to-be farmers	2023-2024	Policy brief on beekeeping	Internal meetings of City of Milan
A2. Community of practices on beekeeping	To increase the awareness among citizens on the importance of urban beekeeping	2023	Organization of a dedicated event "Community of practices" open to stakeholders and shareholders	Community of practices participation  Educational activity on World Bee Day - 20 May 2022











# 4.4 Action 10B – Cascina Nosedo

Adapted from Module:	5. LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY, 4. RESILIENT INTEGRATED URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Project Short Description:	To complete the regeneration plan realised with the EU project's resources and to build a middle-period sustainability perspective for the OpenAgri project, Milan Municipality decided to grant MM the whole complex of Cascina Nosedo in building lease until 2037. According to this agreement, MM is committed to build a new "Innovative hub for research and innovation of the Integrated Water Service", to turn OpenAgri objects and results into a wider requalification and re-adaptation program of the farmstead, integrating them with the spaces already requalified thanks to the EU funds (Building n.9 e n.10) and enhancing the relationship between Cascina Nosedo – 30 hectare of agricultural fields dedicated to OpenAgri innovative experimentations – and the near Purifier of Milano-Nosedo, as an excellence and innovation hub of the very same Integrated Water Service.  MM's vision develops new relationships between agriculture, water cycle and landscape and promises the functional and architectural restoration of all the other spaces of Cascina Nosedo, where will arise the new innovative and experimental hub on circular economy and urban resilience. The project also aims to create informative spaces and places for start-up incubation. There will also be spaces for cultural and social
	activities conducted by local communities and NGO's.  To better enhance the spaces during the planning and design of the new MM Hub, it is intended to plan a first outpost in the already functioning areas.











Project objectives:	<ul> <li>The action aims to pursue the following objectives:</li> <li>Support the development of MM's project according to the Municipality's guidelines (DG 30/10/2020).</li> <li>Generate new economic opportunities thanks to the collaboration with MM to create a start-up incubator in the field of circular economy applied to peri-urban agriculture.</li> <li>Promote the participation of local actors to the recovery of the farmstead spaces.</li> <li>Education and training activities on urban and peri urban agriculture in Milan</li> </ul>
Links to others city strategy	The action contributes to the fulfilment of the following local goals:  - Strategy for a circular Milan (economic dimension) - Economic and company innovation (support to start-up, scale-up, and small and medium-sized enterprises) - Environmental transition and Air and Climate Plan 1.7 (DCC 79/2020) - Food Policy of Milan, Target 2.1,2.2,2.3 (DCC 25/2015)
Project focal points	Urban Economy Department











Stakeholders to involve (from or outside the ULG):	With the aim of developing a shared planning, the project seeks to involve internal and external actors.  Municipal actors, within the internal organisation (Departments, Vice Mayor office/cabinet, in-house company for water management MM)
	City actors, outside the Municipality: - OpenAgri partners - Local actors (Corvetto-Nosedo-Porto di Mare)
Timescales and Spend profile:	<ul> <li>June 2022: ULG meeting with city departments and MM to discuss possible further solutions to the management of the Cascina</li> <li>September 2022: the Municipality received a call for interest to collect possible projects for the management of the location Cascina Nosedo</li> <li>October 2022: the Municipality approved the Polytechnic project "Off Campus" and gave the management of the location to the University for a period of 3 years</li> </ul>
Financial sources	Internal sources to monitor and follow up











# Workplan – Delivery Plan 2023

Actions	Objective	Timescale	Outputs	Monitor Progress	
field research actions	To define the sub-topics of the field research to be conducted in Cascina Nosedo on food policies practices and actions	2022 (Nov-Dic) 2023 (Jan-Mar)	Guidelines document for research purposes shared with Polytechnic of Milan and Food Policy Area.	Meetings and materials shared with Universities and research centres  Research guidelines elaborated by Food Policy Area	
_	To monitor the program of initiatives managed in Cascina Nosedo	contract field research in Cascina Nosedo)	Education and training activities on urban and peri urban agriculture in Milan Annual report of activities of field research in Cascina Nosedo	List of initiatives conducted annually in field research in Cascina Nosedo  Qualitative analysis of the activities.	











# 4.5 Action 11B – Agrivoltaic farming and plants

Adapted from Module:	3. INNOVATIVE LAND-USE MANAGEMENT IN PERI URBAN AREAS		
Project Short Description:	National Recovery Plan allocated 1,1 billion of euro to realise agri-voltaic fields on over 20.000 hectares of cultivated land. According to international experiences, agri-voltaic should be characterised by innovative planning and should include:  - Co-existence on the same surface of both power production and agricultural activities (with productivity preservation and PAC support)  - Contract agreement of no less than 25-30 years between property-energetic operator-public administration  - Land coverage: less than 25-30%  - Biodiversity increases and agricultural emissions reduction  - Creation of an energy community  High profitability of the installed plans could cause a risk related to the excessive energetic pressure on the peri-urban area, generating an additional state of neglect of Milan countryside. This places the need to engage all the local and urban actors involved.		
Project objectives:	The action seeks to deepen the agri-voltaic farming opportunities, engaging all local stakeholders and shareholders with the aim of evaluating the chance to start a pilot plant and understand the whole administrative process and to participate to possible national or regional call for tenders		











Links to others city strategy:	The action contributes to the fulfilment of the following local goals:  - Air and Climate Plan, Target 3.5 (DCC 79/2020)  - National Recovery Plan – Agriculture  - Renewable Energy Community – UE Directive 2018/2001  - D.I. 1/2012  - Food Policy of Milan, Target n.2.2 and 2.3, (DCC 25/2015)	
Project focal points:	Energy Management Unit	
	Food Policy Department	
	Air and Climate manager	











Stakeholders to involve (from or outside the ULG):	With the aim of developing a share planning, the project seeks to involve internal and external actors.  Municipal actors, within the internal organisation (City Departments, Vicemayor office, in-house company for environment AMAT)  City actors, outside the Municipality:  Regione Lombardia – Agriculture Department  AQST "Milan Rural metropolis framework agreement" Milano Metropoli Rurale  Unions of farmers and farmers's organizations  Others
<ul> <li>January/February 2022: 16th February - ULG meeting and analysis of the issue and possible implementation opportunities for the year 2022</li> <li>February 2022: internal monitoring of the launch of the call and facilitation of possible projects with ULG/AQST members</li> </ul>	
Financial sources	Internal staff











# Workplan – Delivery Plan 2023

Actions	Objective	Timescale	Outputs	Monitor Progress
A1. Analysis of agrivoltaics funding opportunities	To define partners and project proposals on agrivoltaics farming within the Agricultural District of Milan Metroplitan area	2023	Districts interested to develop agrivoltaics plants	4 Meetings within the framework of Milan Rural Metropolis Framework Agreement
	To support Districts's farmers in agrivoltaics project design and administrative support for submission	2023	la	4 Meetings within the framework of Milan Rural Metropolis Framework Agreement











# 4.6 Action 12C – Social Agriculture

Adapted from Module:	3. INNOVATIVE LAND-USE MANAGEMENT IN PERI URBAN AREAS
Project Short Description:	Social agriculture could represent a lever of active labor policies, capable of increasing the employment of some vulnerable groups: social cooperatives for job placement operating in the agricultural sector, youth and female entrepreneurship, and social entrepreneurship. Often these are small and poorly structured experiences, which struggle to find their own economic sustainability, to grow or to position themselves in the local economic market. Social agriculture, if well-built and developed, is able to achieve a better economic balance in the management of the agricultural enterprise and it helps to contribute to the creation of new or more stable jobs for vulnerable people. The data available on the role of social agriculture for job creation that emerged from the study carried out by CREA and INAPP in 2016 specifically highlights that the sociolabor insertion of people in disadvantaged conditions is an activity carried out by 71% of the sample.  The action involves the development of the following activities:  Mapping of the social agriculture realities active in Milan, also by connecting the data of the activities financed by the Cariplo Foundation with the Coltivare Valore call, in a publicly available way;  Community of Practice for sharing good practices;  Analysis of uncultivated land in urban and peri-urban areas, also using the Banca della Terra della Lombardia to encourage the creation of new initiatives.
Project objectives:	The action intends to deepen the phenomenon of social agriculture in Milan.











Links to others city strategy:	The action contributes to the fulfilment of the following local goals:  • Food Policy Milan, Addresses 2.3 (DCC 25/2015)  • AQST Macro 5 Multifunctionality
Project focal points:	Food Policy Department
Stakeholders to involve (from or outside the ULG):	With the aim of developing a shared planning, the project seeks to involve internal and external actors.  Municipal actors, within the internal organisation (City Departments, Vicemayor office, in-house company for school canteens Milano Ristorazione)  City actors, outside the Municipality:  • Milan agricultural district  • House of Agriculture  • Agrivis Cooperative  • Business realities active in the social agriculture sector
Timescales and Spend profile:	To be started











inancial sources
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# Workplan – Delivery Plan 2023

Actions	Objective	Timescale	Outputs	Monitor Progress		
A1. Mapping of social agriculture practices and analysis of uncultivated land in urban and peri-urban areas	To analyze the existing knowledge on social agriculture projects in Milan		Map of social agriculture projects with a common database  Map of uncultivated land shared with Banca della Terra (Soil bank)	Meetings with social agriculture farmers		
	To connect the existing database of different entithies			Meetings with Agriculture area officers		
A2. Community of practices dedicated to social agriculture	To increase the awareness among citizens on the importance of social agriculture	2023	Organization of a dedicated event "Community of practices" open to stakeholders and shareholders	Community of practices participation  Educational activity on Cascine Aperte event (Open Farmhouse Day)		





















### 4. 7 Governance and Delivery Model

The Springboard Plan represents an opportunity for the Municipality of Milan to rearrange and harmonize the synergies between agricultural skills and co-create action priorities for the next years in the agricultural, economic and environmental dimensions. With this intention, internal and external partners of the municipal administration will be involved in the implementation of the plan.

### 4.7.1 Coordination and institutional support

The overall coordination and monitoring of the plan is ensured by the Food Policy Department which responds to the institutional guidelines agreed with the Agriculture area that is under the umbrella of the Food Policy dept. Other city departments are engaged in the process of implementing and monitoring the plan: Environment and green areas departments, the Economic Development department, Welfare department.

At least every 6 months, a meeting will be organised to update and address the deputy mayors and the competent management functions.

The actions of this plan could also become part of the collection of activities of the AQST Milan Rural Metropolis Framework agreement - Action Plan within specific actions: Macroation 7 "Consolidation of the AQST development strategy", "Orientation of policies, plans, and programs (of Bodies)".

#### 4.7.2 Update and revisions

The plan represents a living working document that guides and monitors the administration's efforts to strengthen agriculture in Milan. Therefore, a method of constant updating is envisaged, aimed at the inclusion of new project files, new external and internal actors to be involved, and the updating of qualitative and quantitative contents.











The table above describes all stages and the timing to ensure the participation and involvement of all parties.

# Springboard plan phases

Phase	Time	
Elaboration of a first proposal co-designed by the project team and the Food Policy Department, based on internal and external consultation	January - February 2022	
Sharing and validation of the competent technical offices of the Departments.	March - April 2022	
Updated version with a short list of pilot actions	September 2022	
Final internal validation	October 2022	
Public presentation at NextAgri final event	November 2022	
Implementation and monitoring	November 2022 - December 2023	











### 4. 8 Communication

This plan has been developed as a strong operational tool, therefore the main focus is not communication with the public or external audience.

According to this, these are the following expected action to communicate the plan:

#### Local dissemination

 presentation to the project partners and to other actors deemed interested in the presence of the plan;

#### International dissemination

- publication on the URBACT portal and presentation in thematic events of EU networks and within the MUFPP members
- application as a practice to the Milan Pact Awards for inclusion in the database of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact.

The communication of the single actions will be realised through the following activities:

- social media coverage of the Municipality of Milan, Food Policy, and single partners;
- press releases
- launch of events for initiatives and information events
- printed materials banners, flyers, posters











# 5. MATCH FUNDING

#### 5.1 Our Asks

In terms of investments, the actions presented in this plan require specific investments, but it's important to say that some of the budget has already been allocated or it will be allocated according to the incoming funds opportunities that will be identified.

Specifically, some actions will be also put in the new funding opportunities that will be issued in 2022-2023, in relation to the agricultural field and in the strategic National Recovery and Resilience Plan - PNRR that each city will have as a guiding light for the development of future innovative actions at the urban level. In relation to that, we can divide the investment effort as follow due to the following financial opportunities:

#### Human Resources of the City of Milan

Staff of Food Policy Department is engaged in the implementation of the plan with the support of the dedicated staff of other city departments, depending on the timing of the implementation of the specific actions, the competences and on the effort required.

### Lombardy Region - Rural development plan

For 2022-2023, Lombardy Region planned calls for tender for specific topics related to the pilot actions. The funding opportunities will be available and according to that, the City will decide whether to propose a project or not.

### National Recovery and Resilience Plan – PNRR

The PNRR allocates € 6.8 billion to the agricultural sector, of which:

- 1.2 billion euro for supply chain and district contracts
- 1.1 billion euro for the agricultural sector
- 0.8 billion euro for the irrigation system

#### Complementary Fund

Supplementary addition to the PNRR.

#### Supply chain and district contracts

MIPAFF - Ministry of agriculture and forestry puts some funds for the development of district contracts

#### Cariplo Foundation

AGER project - agri-food research program Cultivating values - social farming projects

### Municipal Budget

Mission 16 "Agriculture, agri-food policies and fisheries" - Program 01 "Development of the agricultural sector and the agri-food system"











## Other funds

MM investment in Cascina Nosedo (from water tariff or with PNRR funds)











# **5.2 Funding Sources**

This table describes the subsidiarity of funds foreseen by the plan. For each pilot action, it is indicated the source of funding and the timeline.

Pilot actions	Source of funding	Timeline
Agricultural Contract Districts	MIPAFF - Ministry of agriculture and forestry (V call for tender - supply chain and district contracts	2023
Beekeeping	Human resources of City of Milan (Food Policy dept.)	2023
Cascina Nosedo	MM fund (from water tariff) National Recovery and Resilience Plan - PNRR	2023-2025
Agrivoltaics	National Recovery and Resilience Plan - PNRR	2023
Social agriculture	Lombardy Region - Rural development plan	2022-2023











### 6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

### 6.1 The Monitoring and Evaluation Approach

The implementation period of the actions planned is based on different steps to be reached in the medium and long term.

Therefore, the timing has been indicated to provide an overall overview of the implementation.

In general, the monitoring will be realized by the internal staff of the Municipality that is following the different actions within the Food Policy Department.

The actions will be constantly monitored due to the preparation of funding opportunities but also according to the development of specific policies that could be proposed at the city level.

As explained in the previous section this plan had an application during the project timeframe and it covers several areas of interventions, guiding the municipality in reaching the overall objectives foreseen by the Food Policy Department and the Agriculture area. According to this, the monitoring timeline and methodology are specified in each specific pilot action.

In addition to the specific monitoring actions, Food Policy Department will organize public events called "Communities of practices". Among the methods of involvement and consultation adopted in recent years in the development of Milan food policy for the engagement of shareholders, there is the development of communities of practices which can be seen as moments of sharing of ideas and knowledge among the actors and effective tools for identifying solutions (including guidelines, vademecum, etc.).

The City of Milan has realised more than 14 communities of practices in the last 5 years and other consultation tools such as solution labs or focus groups, especially in relation to agriculture and sustainability of the food system in relation to short supply chains. New community of practices will monitor and evaluate more qualitatively the pilot actions planned with NextAgri. The scope is to receive suggestions to update the Food Policy context through a direct consultation of external stakeholders and other internal departments of the City of Milan.











### 7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work is based on the policy framework that is related to agriculture in Milan.

#### **AQST**

https://www.milanometropolirurale.regione.lombardia.it/wps/portal/site/milanometropolirurale

Food Policy di Milano - <a href="https://foodpolicymilano.org/obiettivi/">https://foodpolicymilano.org/obiettivi/</a>

Regione Lombardia PSR – programma di sviluppo rurale <a href="https://www.psr.regione.lombardia.it/wps/portal/PROUE/FEASR">https://www.psr.regione.lombardia.it/wps/portal/PROUE/FEASR</a>

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