

Quebec Declaration

For the Promotion of Local Initiatives for Responsible and Sustainable Eating and the Emergence of Territorialized Agri-food Systems

Quebec City, October 2, 2015

At the October 1 and 2 International Symposium "*The Territorialized Agri-Food Systems: Source of Diversity and Tool for Integration and Competitiveness*" organized by the Laval University's Legal Research Chair in Food Diversity and Security and Montpellier SupAgro's UNESCO Chair on World Food Systems, participants recognized the importance of strengthening territorialized agri-food systems and establishing a better balance between the "globalized" and "territorialized" components of food systems.

This shared goal stems from the will to make food system the driving force in territorial development efforts that not only lead to the creation of local food and agricultural chains, but also contribute to the preservation of natural resources, the improvement of the environment, the creation of jobs in relevant sectors (catering, ecotourism, craft work, services), the promotion of cultural heritage (especially with regard to gastronomy) and the protection of food and agricultural diversity.

The realization of these objectives rests on the involvement of citizens in responsible and sustainable food practices, as well as the support of public authorities, especially at the regional level, and of local communities and the implementation of relevant national and international regulations.

Symposium participants were also given an update on three parallel projects conducted in Costa Rica, France and Quebec, which are part of the "100 local initiatives for Responsible and Sustainable Eating" (*100 initiatives pour une alimentation responsable et durable*¹) Program. The update highlighted the richness and diversity of such citizen actions that open up new and original avenues of food production, processing and consumption. The data samples for the three countries, based on surveys carried out by students under the guidance of their professors, make it possible to evaluate the obstacles and drivers of a large-scale mobilization for the implementation of this new model. They also provide a basis for the development of concrete proposals for private sector actors interested in territorialized agri-food system and for public entities wanting to redirect their policies and re-examine international laws and regulations. Aside from the pursuit of their national projects, the partners of these three countries have decided to work toward the development, at the international level, of "agri-food systems with high social, environmental, biological and cultural value".

¹ For more information on the "100 Initiatives" program, cf the special edition of the journal RESOLIS (<http://resolis.org/journal>).

The partners of the three countries attending the Quebec Symposium have also decided to create an international network and to elaborate a program which would identify and review local initiatives for responsible and sustainable eating and submit recommendations to the different local, regional, national and international actors.

They invite all partners who wish to launch a “100 Initiatives” project to join them in the new network and program in order to contribute to a coherent and multidisciplinary discussion on the promotion and protection of territorialized agri-food systems and their related initiatives.

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To join the Network, please write to one of the signatories of the Declaration.