



**Euracademy Association and the Forestry and Wood Technology School (Postojna)**

**Online 19<sup>th</sup> Summer Academy**

***“Regenerative Agriculture. A bold step towards sustainability”***

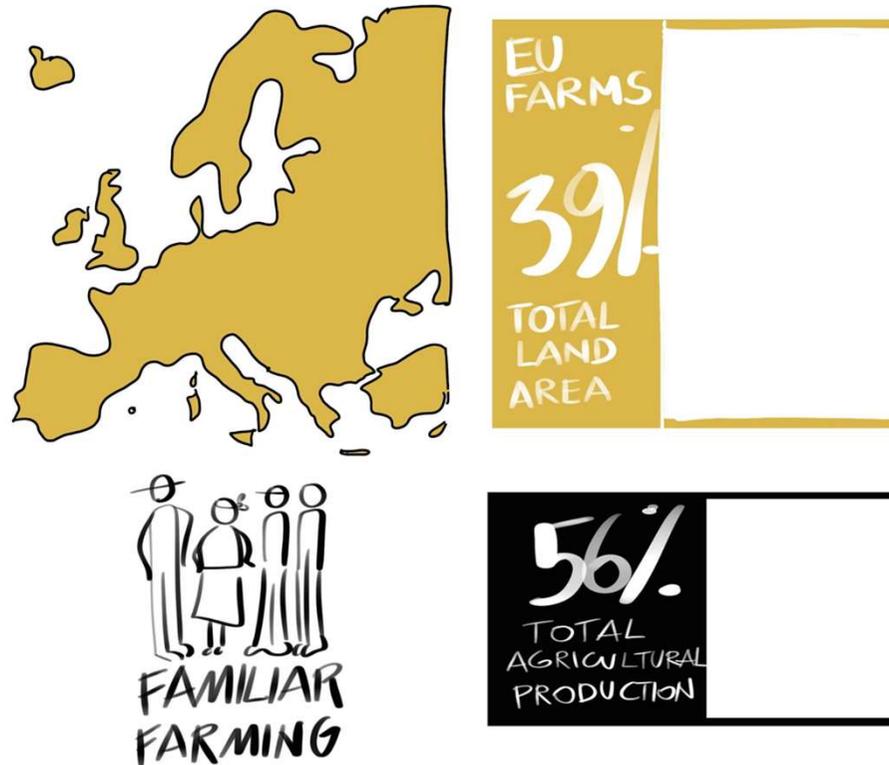
**HOLISTIC APPROACH AS A STRATEGIC TOOL IN  
SUSTAINABLE RURAL LANDSCAPE PLANNING**

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September**

**Topic 2. Regenerative Agriculture and Farm Viability**

Francesca Neonato  
*Agricultural Landscapes WG*  
IFLA Europe





Agricultural Landscape, when is **sustainably cultivated**, is an expression of human biodiversity linked to a wider concept of biodiversity, the result of a **co-evolution process between man and nature**

Agriculture covers 175 million hectares of Europe and shapes the landscape like no other activity. Diverse in every aspect, agriculture has been affected by ecology, the environment, culture and history, policies and economics, and, in return, affected by them. **Dynamic conservation** strategies and processes could transform a current weakness into an **opportunity to promote landscapes and communities through an economic viability.**

***Landscape Architects can make a difference by adopting a holistic approach in planning and designing multifunctional agricultural landscapes.***



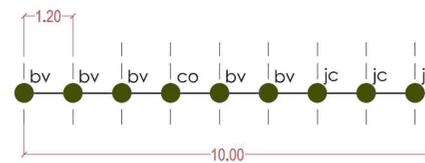
Schema di impianto SIEPI:

Lunghezza totale: 1.105 m

- Alberi di 2-3° grandezza
- Arbusti

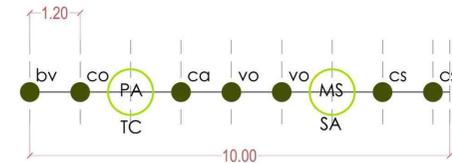
Schema di impianto A

Lunghezza 200 m



Schema di impianto B (Siepe doppia)

Lunghezza 357,5+357,5=715 m



## Agricultural Landscapes Working Group

Under the Professional Practice Committee

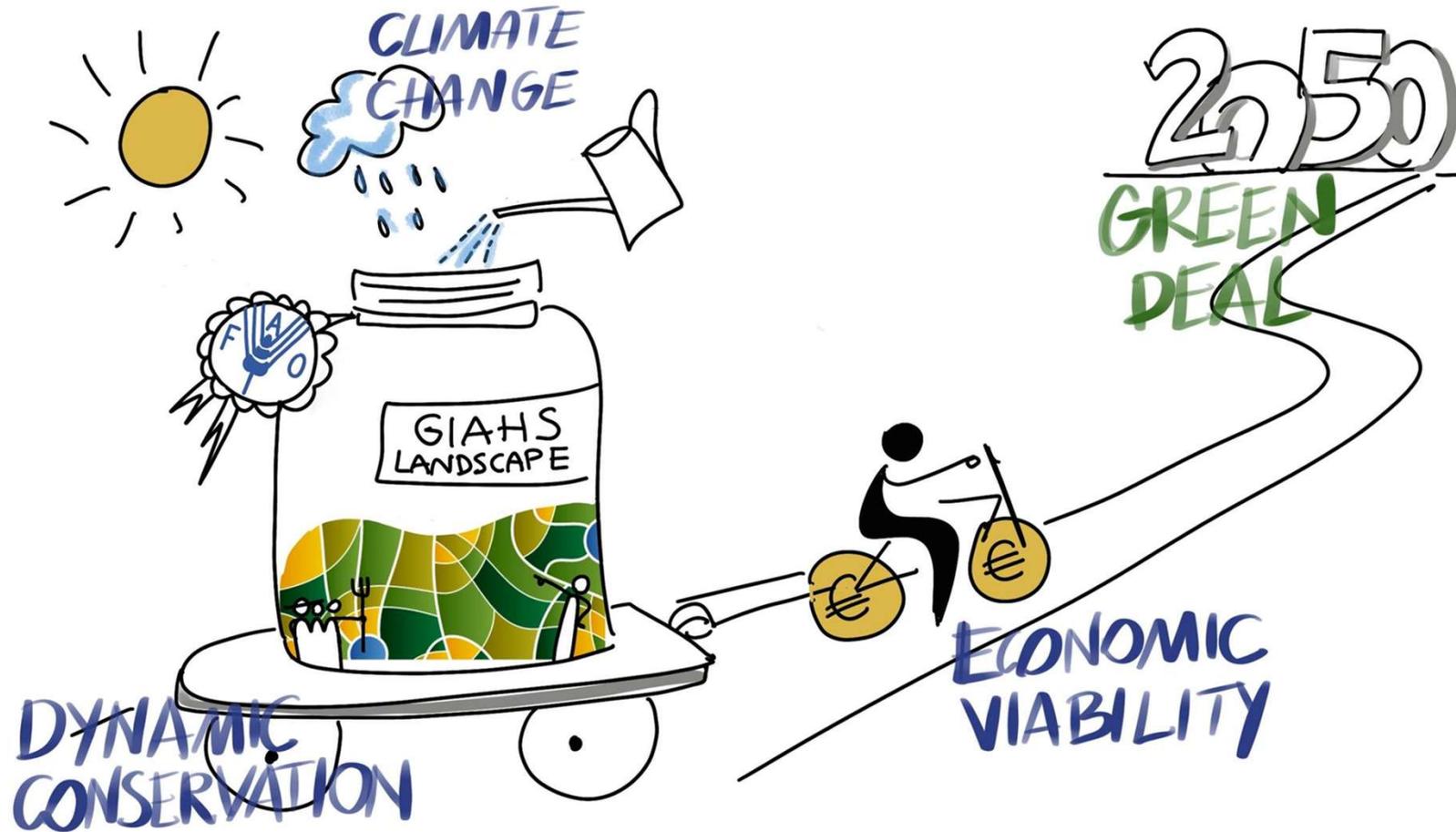
Chair: Francesca Neonato  
AIAPP, Italy

Members:      Lena Athanasiadou      Steffi Schüppel      Nicoletta Piersantelli      Manuel Sanchez      Albert Fekete  
                         PHALA, Greece                      BAK/BDLA, Germany      AIAPP, Italy                      AEP, Spain                      HALA, Hungary

### What aims for this working group?

- **Promote the profession of landscape architects at EU level**, especially in the European Commission, raise the overall awareness of competences of landscape architects related to AL, while fulfilling the strategic aims of the EU
- **Share knowledge about EU policies concerning AL**, with a specific focus on the EU Conservation Agriculture (EIP-AGRI), the *EU Biodiversity Strategy* and the *Farm2Fork strategy* as core topic of the European Green Deal, in order to raise the awareness about the value of rural landscapes as material and immaterial heritage and improving their planning and designing
- Make a European **inventory** of agricultural heritage systems according to FAO program GIAHS (Globally Importance Agricultural Heritage System) guidelines
- Investigate and promote the submission of **potential GIAHS sites** all over in Europe

# What are GIAHS? Which role for landscape architects? Global important agricultural heritage systems



## Which criteria for a GIAHS?

- Food and livelihood security
- Agro-biodiversity
- Local and Traditional Knowledge systems
- Cultures, Value systems and Social Organizations
- Landscapes and Seascapes Features

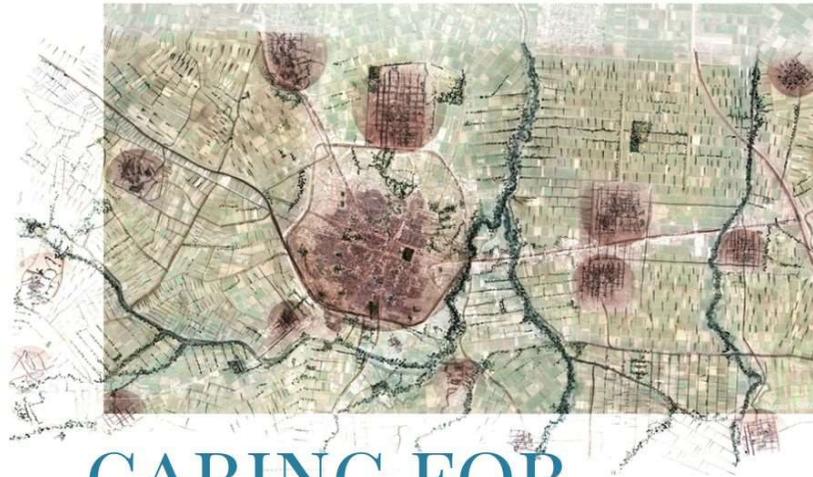


**GIAHS submission  
Ongoing processes  
by IFLA Europe**



IFLA Europe website and the dedicated page on Agricultural Landscapes - here is the link

[IFLA Europe leaflet "Caring for Agricultural Landscapes"](#)



# CARING FOR AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES

As CULTURAL  
HERITAGE  
  
AGROECOSYSTEMS  
AND GREEN  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
  
TRADITIONAL  
KNOWLEDGE AND  
PRACTICE

The agricultural landscape of Karditsa, Greece  
Sketch by Lena Athanasiadou

## THE VALUE OF THE RURAL LANDSCAPES

What is a 'nice' agricultural landscape?



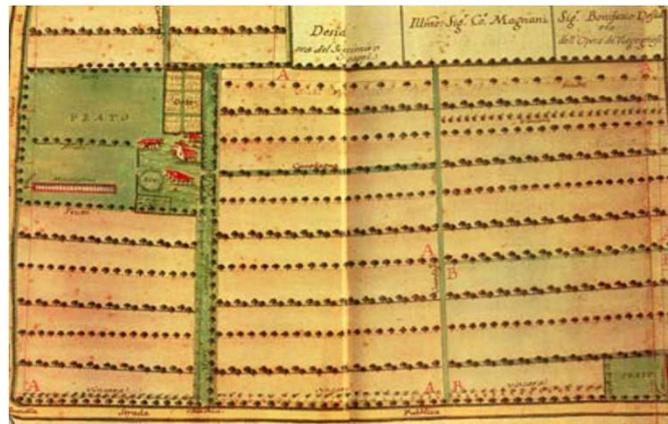
Grain and poplar grove. Po valley



Vineyards. Valdobbiadene hills

## THE VALUE OF THE RURAL LANDSCAPES

Wheat, bluebottles and  
ecostructures – wooded buffer, tree  
rows, hedges  
Po valley (Lombardy)



Francesca Neonato

## THE VALUE OF THE RURAL LANDSCAPES

What's the difference between a conventional and a 'traditional' agriculture?

- Multifunctionality
- Sustainable and regenerative agriculture models (minimum or no tillage, only organic manuring, integrated production, cover crops, ecc.)
- Good and healthy food production
- Conservation of soil fertility
- Biodiversity
- Blue&Green Ecostructures (wood buffer, wetlands, tree rows, hedges, ...)
- Food security, sovereignty and promotion of territorial justice
- Heritage systems, rural architecture, equipment, ...
- **Landscape centrality**



**820 million undernourished people in the world, living in rural areas, it is a means to face hunger**

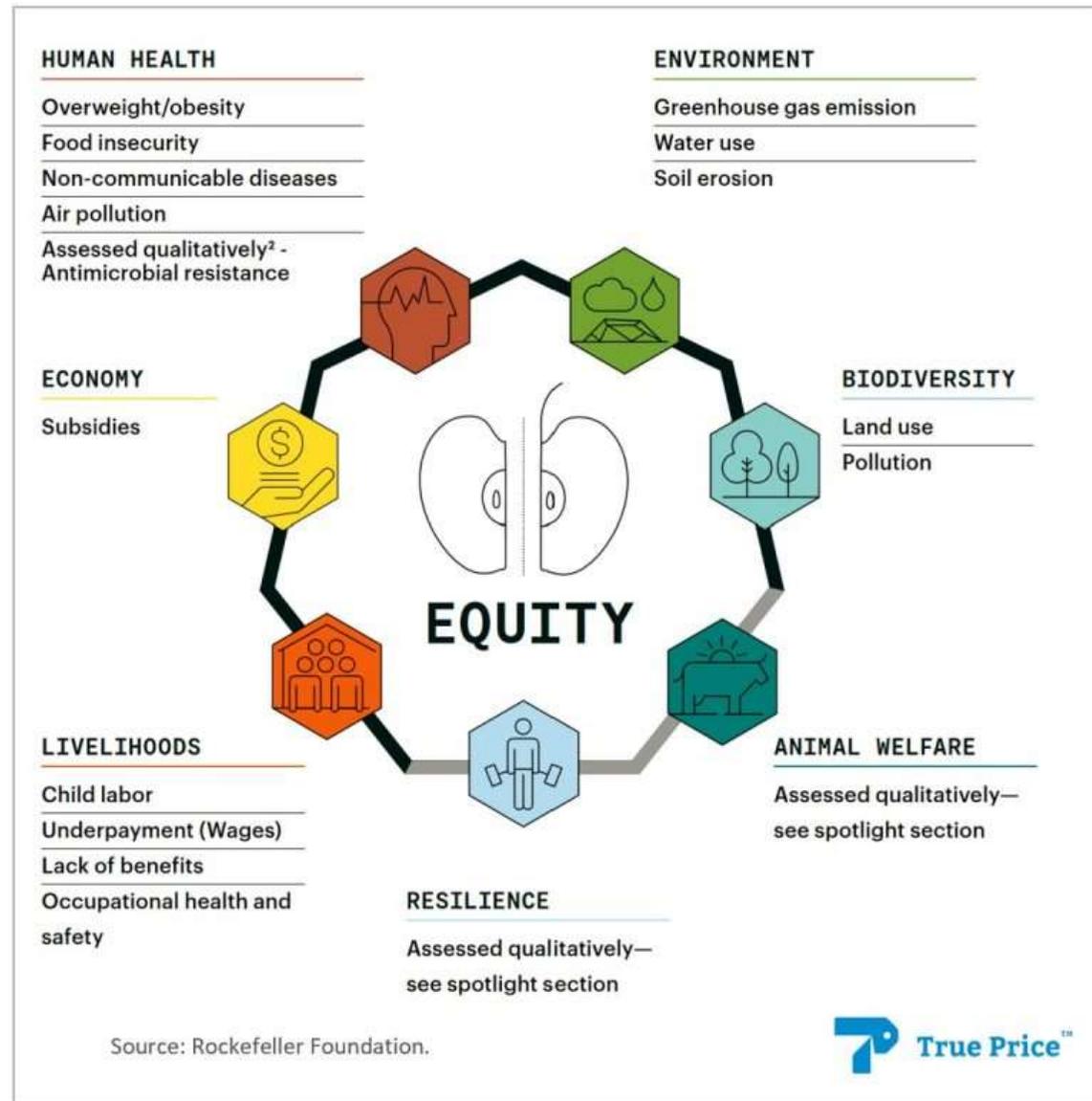
## TRUE PRICES

During the Food System Pre-Summit (Rome, 26-28 July 2021), it has been stressed that usually food price doesn't include hidden costs: impact on environment and human health (**economic externalities**).

A sustainable economy with true pricing at its core. It explains how true pricing can transform our economic system in three phases by:

1. creating transparency,
2. enabling the remediation of hidden costs
3. creating a level playing field

<https://trueprice.org/>



## TRUE PRICES

Also, extra-costs must be considered in *landscape regeneration*, after remediation.



**ValSOS project, soil organic matter valorization**

Environmental and Earth Science Department, University of Milan



## ValSOS project, soil organic matter valorization

Environmental and Earth Science Department, University of Milan

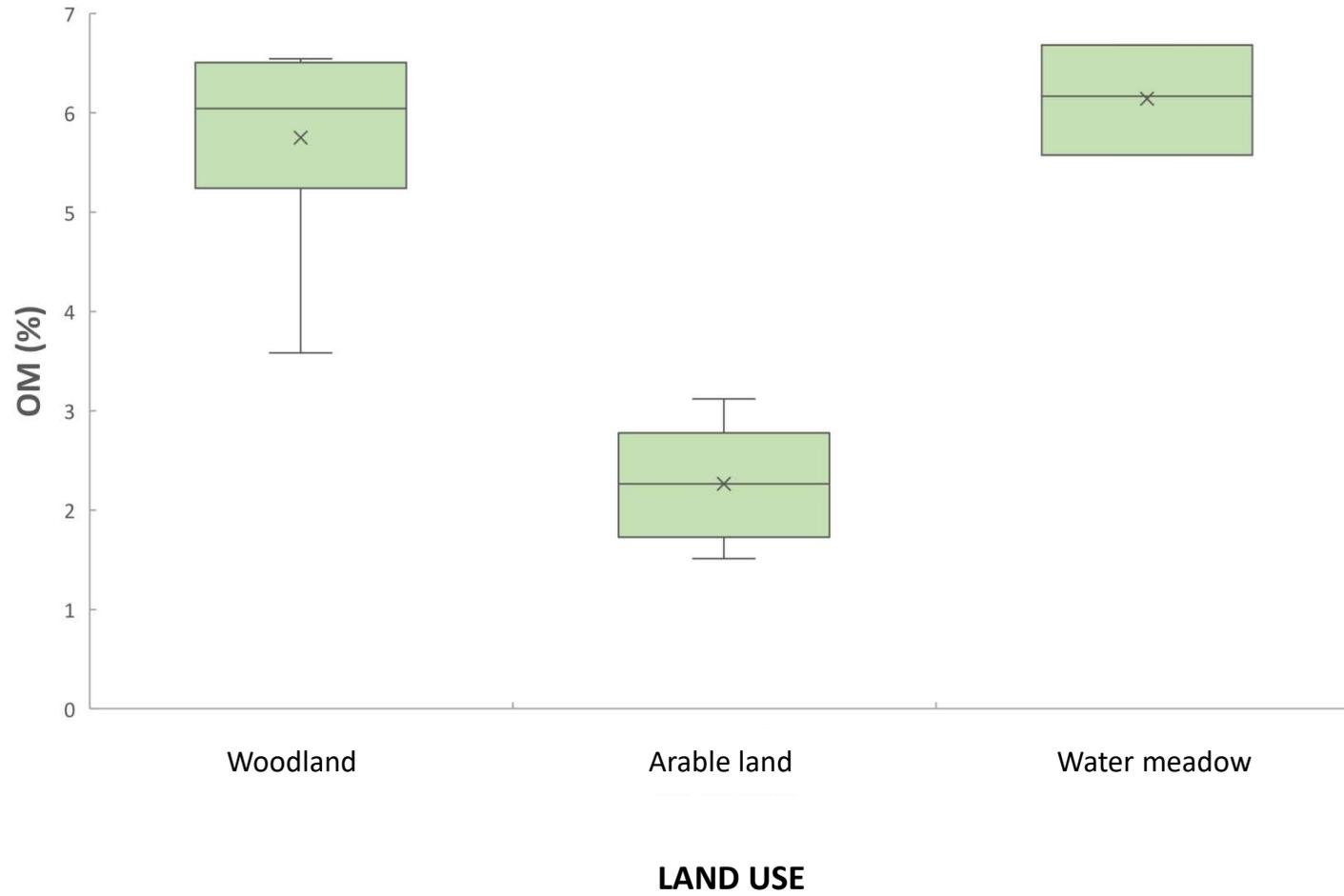
created to study the agricultural and natural soils between Milan and Ticino valley, above all to relate the pedological characteristics, in particular the content of **organic matter (OM)**, related to the different uses of the soil, the different agronomic management practices and the the natural landscape, such as the presence of ecostructures (rows, hedges, wetlands, wooded strips).

In parallel with the assessment of soil properties, **soil biodiversity** was studied, which is related to the content of OM.

The general objective is to provide food for thought on agricultural practices, which can change the quality, affect the balance of organic matter, its biodiversity and as a result the landscape.



Francesca Neonato





Water meadow



# TERRACED VINEYARDS LANDSCAPE, VAL DI CEMBRA, TRENTINO



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## TERRACED VINEYARDS LANDSCAPE, VAL DI CEMBRA, TRENINO



2020, registered in the National Observatory of Rural Landscape

<https://www.reterurale.it/registropaesaggi>

Valle di Cembra vineyards are planted on terraces with the traditional “pergola” system. Right from **Roman times**, these areas have seen the development of vineyards that have yielded excellent results thanks to the particular morphology of the territory.

The co-evolution between man and this territory has shaped a **unique landscape**, characterized by an agro-economic system that provide income to **more than 4000 families** in 12.000 ha.

This eco-agrosystem is the result of the integration among vineyards, crops and woodland. It allows the production of excellent wines, such as Müller Thurgau, Chardonnay and Pinot noir, as well as the **biodiversity conservation**, sustainable tourism and a strong **sense of belonging of the communities**.

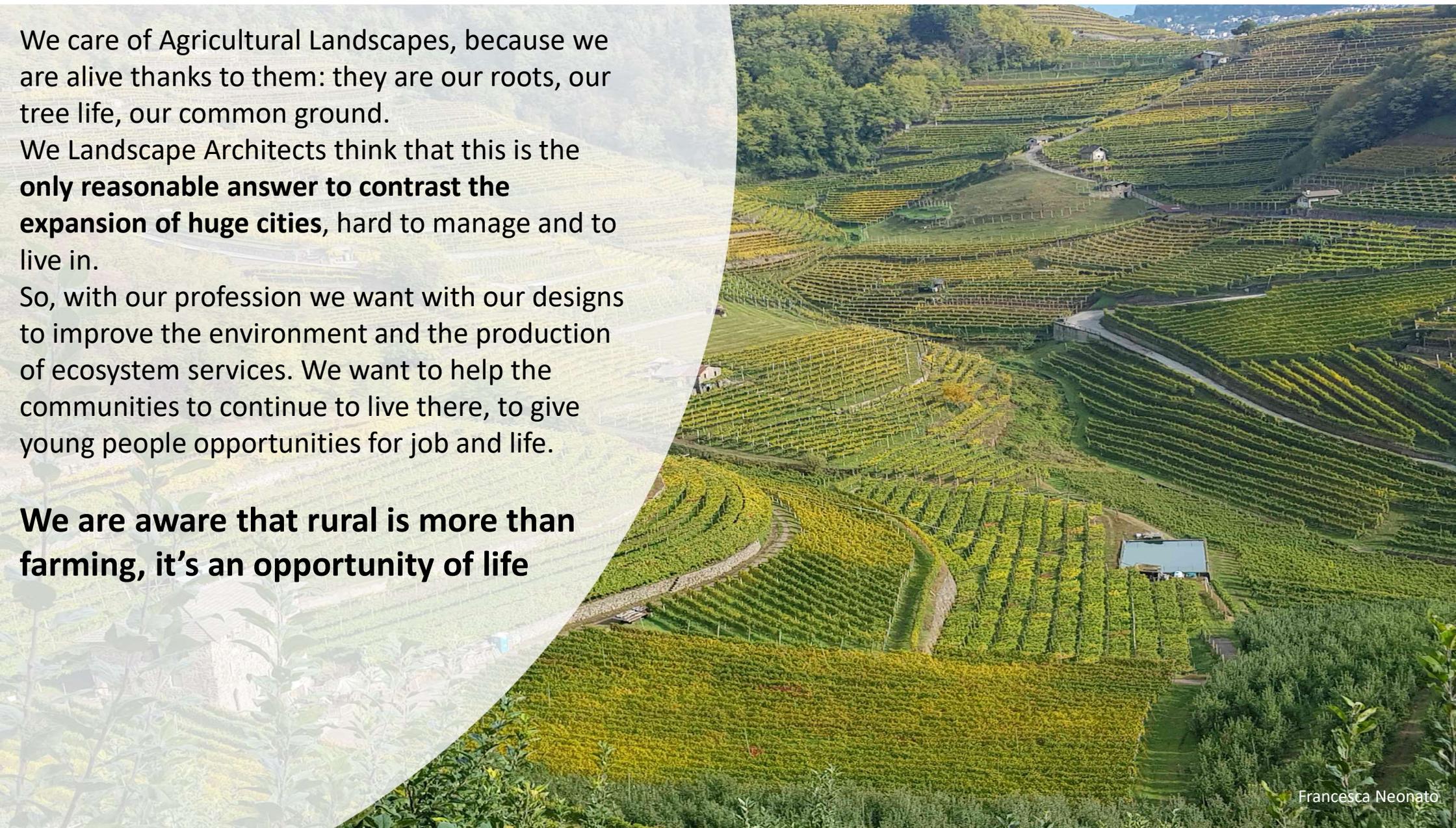
Many stakeholders are involved in the production chain, such as grapes producers, producers’ consortiums, grappa distillers with the traditional bain-marie method. Even though it is characterized by small or micro estates, it has succeeded in remaining competitive thanks to cooperation and innovation.

We care of Agricultural Landscapes, because we are alive thanks to them: they are our roots, our tree life, our common ground.

We Landscape Architects think that this is the **only reasonable answer to contrast the expansion of huge cities**, hard to manage and to live in.

So, with our profession we want with our designs to improve the environment and the production of ecosystem services. We want to help the communities to continue to live there, to give young people opportunities for job and life.

**We are aware that rural is more than farming, it's an opportunity of life**





Thank for your attention