



ITALY

NATIONAL STUDY

# SCHOLA CAMPESINA BIO-DISTRETTO DELLA VIA AMERINA E DELLE FORRE, VITERBO

Schola Campesina is a training and participatory research centre seeking to strengthen producers' organizations in their struggle for food sovereignty through knowledge valorization and sharing. Based on the Nyéléni International Forum for Agroecology (2015), and on the principles of Dialogo de saberes, Schola Campesina seeks to boost the sharing of peasant, academic and activist knowledge. Through trainings and events, Schola Campesina provides specific information related to the global governance of food and agriculture to producers' organizations, strengthening their position within the Rome process.

Schola Campesina seeks to strengthen the network of agroecology schools and training initiatives around the world from a South-South Cooperation perspective. It seeks to gather good practices that can be replicated, and valuable knowledge to disseminate among small-scale farmers around the world.

## FOOD GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

Schola Campesina disseminates information on global governance and decision-making processes related to food and agriculture at the global level among farmers' organizations. It seeks to highlight the structure, logic and power relations that characterize the current corporate food system.

## PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH

Schola Campesina seeks to mobilize relevant and valuable knowledge from peasants and their organizations, from academics and their institutions, and from activists and their organizations. This knowledge is documented and disseminated following the needs of the practitioners.

## KNOWLEDGE: THE CORE OF AGROECOLOGY

Knowledge is at the core of the peasant model of production. It is their heritage, their most valuable tool, and their strength. The transition towards the agroecological model of production will need to recover, develop and valorize peasant knowledge, as it is the basis of biodiversity, territoriality and sustainability.

## DIALOGO DE SABERES

The "Dialogo de saberes" (a dialogue of "ways of knowing"), is a crucial concept for the promotion of horizontal knowledge transmission and sharing between researchers, farmers, social movements, NGOs, and so on.

Schola Campesina seeks to stimulate the co-production of knowledge through constructive dialogue among agroecology and food sovereignty allies.

## TRAINING EXPERIENCE

The first training of Schola Campesina took place from 25 September 2017 to 7 October 2017. It brought together 15 members of peasants' organizations (LVC members) from around the world to share experiences and discuss issues related to the following: the global governance of food and agriculture; peasants' knowledge; peasants' autonomy; agroecological practices; peasants' global struggles; local and global food policies; and women's empowerment. It took place on a partner farm in the Biodistrict of Viterbo Province, and in Rome

next to all UN bodies related to food and agriculture, which allowed the participants to benefit from peasant and activist knowledge from all around the world. This first edition was funded by FAO/OPCP and Associazione Tulipano Bianco/Confeyuro.

Training is not a one-off event, but encourages experience sharing far beyond the physical meeting. The collection of interesting experiences that can be replicated, and daily dialogue among the participants through social media continue to speed up efforts to scale out agroecology.



Schola Campesina

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