GIAHS of Barroso - Portugal

30th September 2021
The Barroso area is located in North Portugal, Alto Tâmega’s Region/NUTIII, with a surface of 1.127,40 km$^2$ and a population of 14.281 inhabitants ($\approx$ 12,66 inhabit./km$^2$).
The Barroso territory is mainly a plateau, with a harsh, severe climate. It has very wide variations in temperature and variable rainfall according to altitude (from valleys below 400m to high mountains above 1,500m of altitude). Snow is frequent, lasting for several days, especially when followed by frosty days.
GIAHS of Barroso – Livestock

Main Source of Livelihoods:
Agriculture, livestock breeding and processing of foodstuffs, forestry and grazing and tourist activities.

The farming system is an agro-livestock and each farmer produces different crops and even creates different animal species (e.g. cattle, goats and sheep). Grazing is extensive, with animals spending much of the time outdoors.
The land structure is typically of private smallholdings (arable lands and meadows)

Agricultural crops are mostly based on annual crops (cereals and vegetables)

The majority of Barroso’s crops are still obtained both for human consumption (self-consumption and sale) and for animal feeding.
The management of the meadows take advantage of the natural topographic features and of the physiologic cycles of the vegetation. It is one of the main and ancient knowledge systems that is still present, being vital for all the agrarian system of Barroso.
Communitarianism is one of the most typical values and customs of Barroso. It is a form rural organization, circumscribed to a given territory and based on a deep sense of solidarity and cooperation between neighbours.
GIAHS of Barroso – Farming

In Barroso the farming and food are a part of an economy of subsistence and is based on the following pillars:

- Animal Production (cattle, goats, pigs, sheep)
- Cereal Production (marshes and cereals)
- Vegetable Production (potatoes, cabbage, turnip...)
- Beekeeping Production (honey)
- Processed Products (smoked meats)
GIAHS of Barroso – Cereals

The main cereal in Barroso is rye (Secale cereale), grown on the land with poorer soil conditions. This crop involves a system of rotation with the other crops present in the region, such as potato and turnip, and fallow periods. The rye is used both in human food (bakery) and animal feed.
Barroso has the Honey, the pork meat and the bovine barrosã meat, classified as PDO – protected designation of origin products.
GIAHS of Barroso – PGI Products

Barroso has the goatling, the lamb, the crossed bovine beef and the several types of smoked pork sausages, classified as PGI – protected geographical indication.
Engagement of the local stakeholders

- Local stakeholders have an active participation in meetings with the entities responsible for the management of GIAHS of Barroso, where they get to know the activities foreseen in the action plan. Based on these meetings, local stakeholders involve the region's producers and farmers in activities of the action plan.

- They are invited to participate in the discussion about the future of the territory and in the definition of a future strategy for rural development in Barroso.

- Participation in local partnerships, events and other initiatives that promote the territory.

- Local stakeholders also promote meetings, training actions and events aimed at promoting the territory and its products and also the farmers.
Thank you!