

Rural Pact Conference

15-16 June 2022



The strategic role of rural areas for climate and food security

The experience of Italian biodistricts



Monica Coletta – AIAB – Associazione italiana per l'agricoltura biologica



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What is a biodistrict?

*“ A biodistrict is a geographical area where farmers, citizens, associations and local administrations **make a deal for sustainable resources management**, where organic farming and food consumption represent a starting point for a new model of local development.”*
(AIAB – biodistricts guidelines)

ORGANIC FARMING

a certified production method based on IFOAM's principles of health, ecology, fairness and care

Creates community and becomes a driver for local rural development

Protecting environment, natural resources and biodiversity

Promoting transition to responsible consumption and production patterns

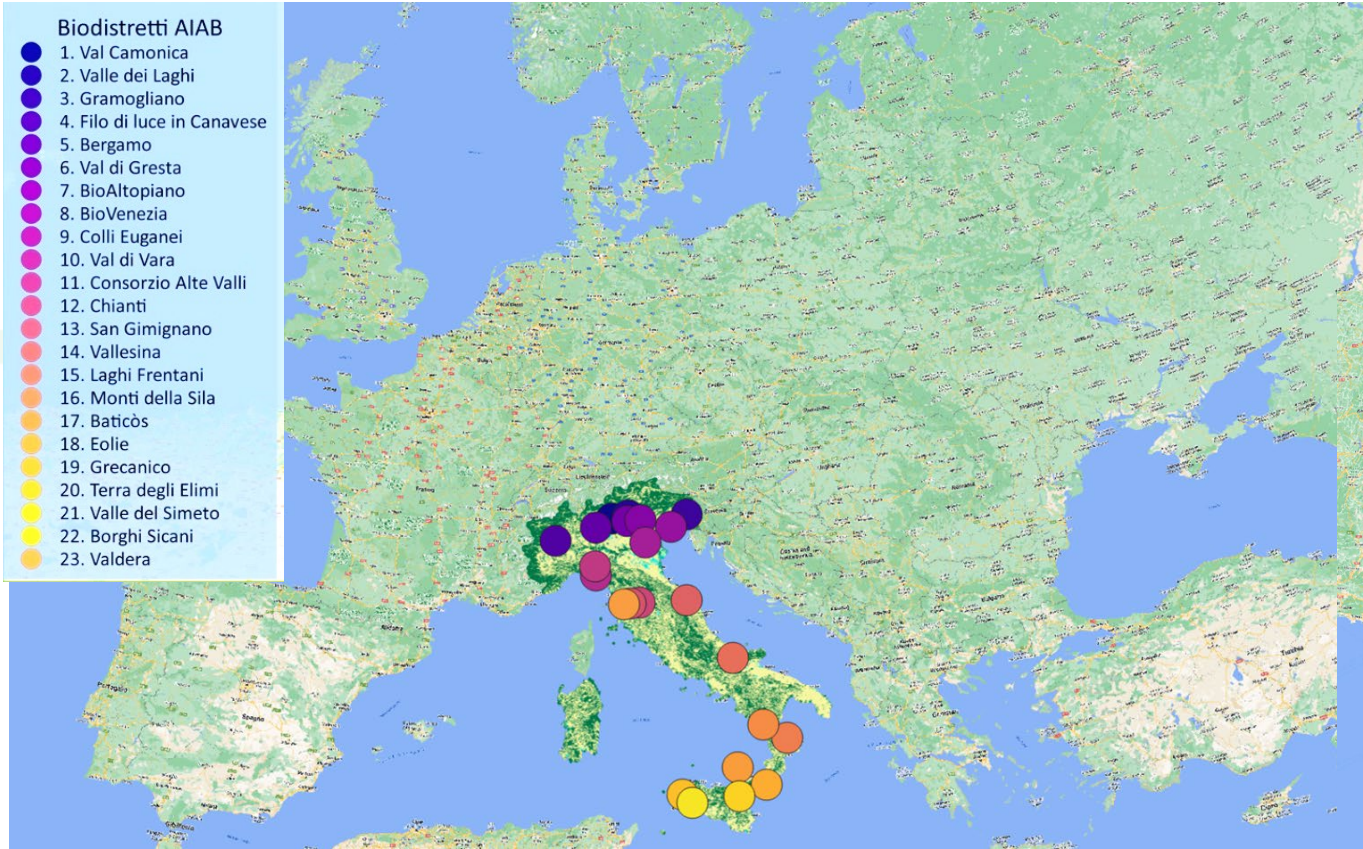
Safeguarding health of workers and local communities



AIAB Guidelines and criteria

- ✓ **Bottom up** and participatory approach
- ✓ Representativeness of the **organic sector**
- ✓ **Prevalence of organic farmers**
- ✓ Leading role of the private sector
- ✓ **High environmental values**
- ✓ Appropriate **territory scale** to foster collaborations with local communities and institutions
- ✓ **Networking**

- Biodistretti AIAB**
1. Val Camonica
 2. Valle dei Laghi
 3. Gramogliano
 4. Filo di luce in Canavese
 5. Bergamo
 6. Val di Gresta
 7. BioAltopiano
 8. BioVenezia
 9. Colli Euganei
 10. Val di Vara
 11. Consorzio Alte Valli
 12. Chianti
 13. San Gimignano
 14. Vallesina
 15. Laghi Frentani
 16. Monti della Sila
 17. Baticòs
 18. Eolie
 19. Grecanico
 20. Terra degli Elimi
 21. Valle del Simeto
 22. Borghi Sicani
 23. Valdera



AIAB biodistrict network



***23 biodistricts based on
AIAB guidelines***

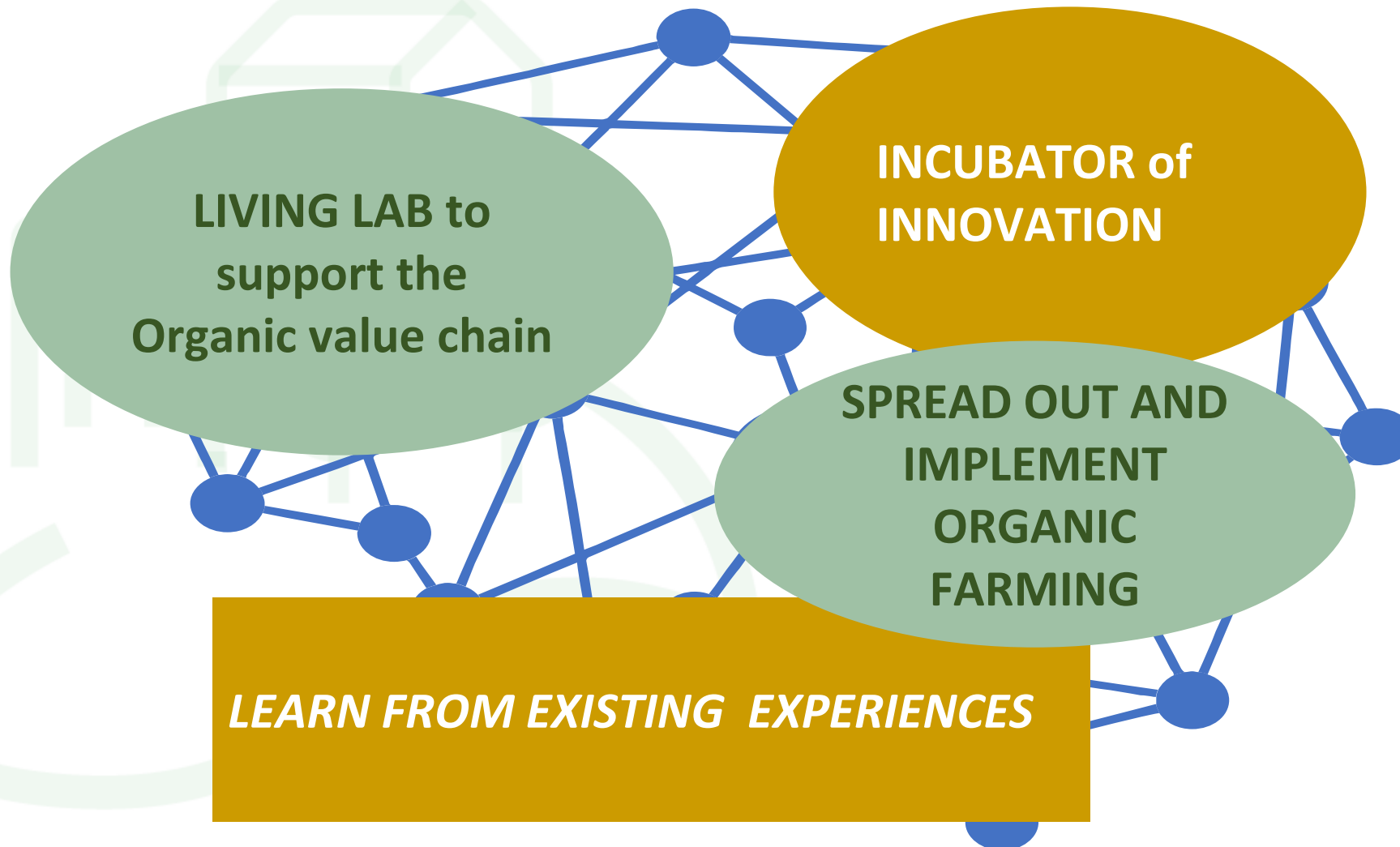


Reasons to promote biodistricts

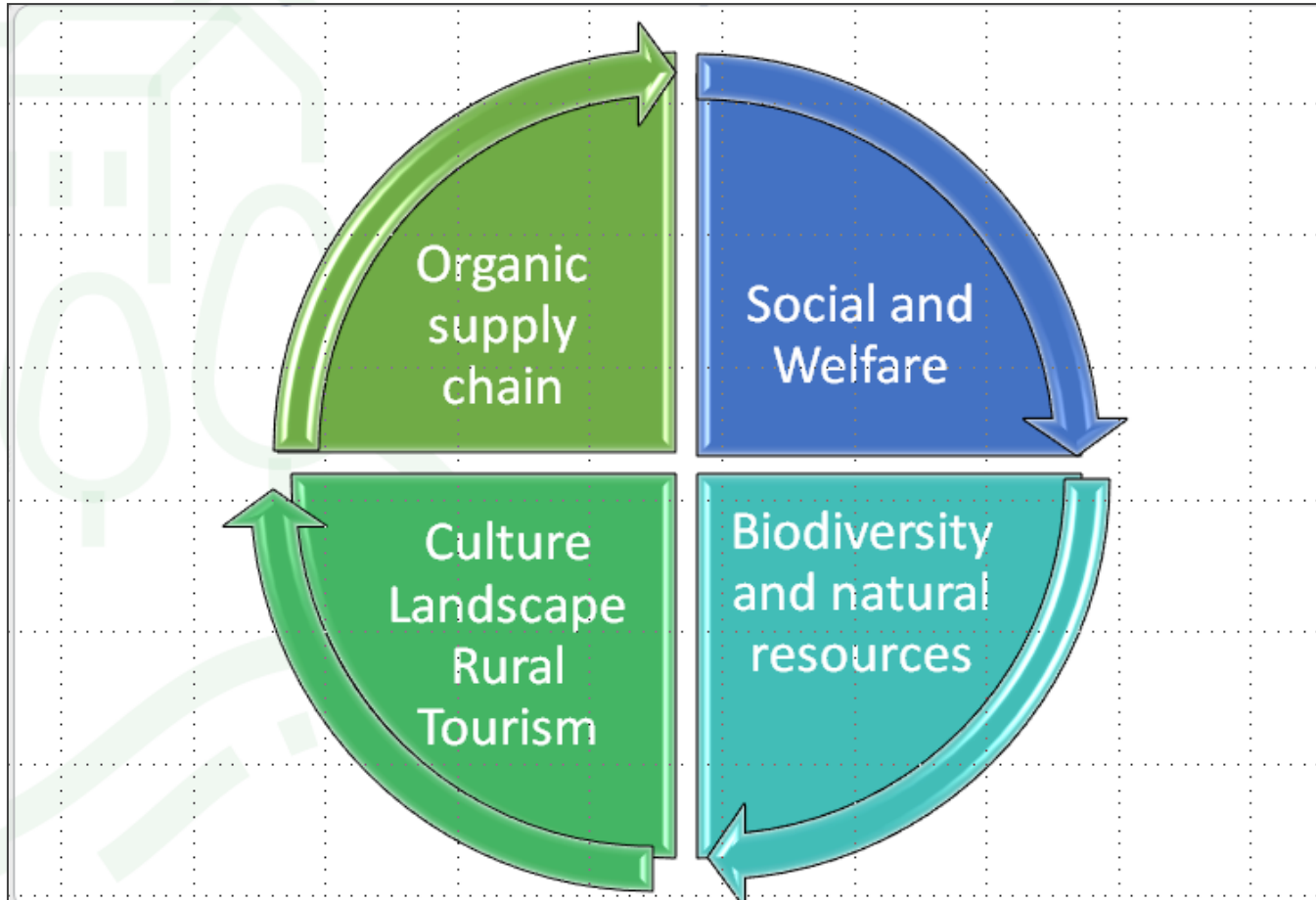
- **SHARE knowhow locally**, fill the gap and build capacity to support organics with dissemination, demonstration activities and high level **AKIS**
- **CONTEXTUALIZE SOLUTIONS and PRACTICES** - participated research and innovation
- **CREATE SINERGIES and REDUCE EMISSIONS** : develop local vocations, enhance circular economy, soil-based carbon sequestration practices
- **SUPPORT YOUNG and SHORT SUPPLY CHAIN INITIATIVES** : lively territories, green public procurement, local food supply chains, food education initiatives
- **SUPPORT BIODIVERSITY** : Pollinators, agrobiodiversity and crop diversification

PROMOTE RESILIENT LOCAL ORGANIC FARMING AND FOOD SYSTEM

A network to up-scale organics



Strategic axes of rural development in biodistricts





Observed effects of biodistricts

- **Increased number of Organic Producers and of Organic farmed surface area**
- **Empowerment Of Producers and Adoption of Climate Friendly Practices**
- **REPUTATION of the BIODISTRICT and of ORGANIC FARMERS**
- **CO-CONSTRUCTION OF REGIONAL POLICIES FOR BIODISTRICTS**
- **GROWTH of the local SUPPLY CHAIN**

A scenic landscape featuring rolling hills, a small village, and distant mountains under a cloudy sky. The foreground is dominated by a field of tall, golden-brown grass. In the middle ground, a small village with several buildings is visible, nestled among green fields. The background shows a range of mountains, with a prominent, jagged peak in the distance. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds.

Thank you

Thank you

