



Alexander Educational Technological
Institute of Thessalonica
Greece



CIHEAM - Mediterranean
Agronomic Institute of Montpellier
France



National Institute of Agronomic
Research
France

FONCIMED
Network CIHEAM-INRA
for research and exchange on Mediterranean land tenure

10th Annual Seminar
2 - 4 November 2017
Thessalonica
Greece

**« Land tenure as an asset for territorial development and the
sustainability of rural communities? »**

Rural areas face a wide range of challenges. On the one hand, there is increasing disconnection between agricultural society and the rural milieu, in the context of economic globalization and technological progress. Growing delocalization of agricultural production not only means that agriculture plays a smaller role in the creation of quality products and local jobs, but also aggravates inequality between producers and between regions. This in turn leads to changes in rural society, as agricultural activity is gradually replaced by residential usage or leisure pursuits. As a result, rural space has become multi-purpose, giving rise to tensions that are difficult to arbitrate between often very different categories of actors. On the other hand, environmental problems accentuated by climate change and the health risks associated with the productivist model have generated new demands. Citizens increasingly concern themselves with issues such as good agro-ecological practice, the specific quality of food products, local biophysical and cultural factors, fair trade and relocation of systems of food production.

Under these circumstances, land tenure has become an important factor of territorial development. It is both a bone of contention and a rallying-point for territorial cohesion and mobilization of local communities and territorial collectivities.

We propose to confront different angles and document current controversies on the subject by reconsidering the role of land tenure in rural/local development procedures and by updating the spectrum of analysis of the different components that are coming to light on land devolution: social exclusion/ insertion; new urban-rural partnerships; privatization of collectives; disputes, and so on. In Northern Mediterranean countries, a new tendency to re-territorialize agricultural production systems has been observed in recent years. These changes are a reaction “from the bottom up” to the different problems triggered by the crisis: enforced withdrawal from the race for productivity; deregulation of agricultural markets; the financial and public debt crises, and so on. In countries lying on the Southern Rim, these procedures of re-territorialization are presented as an alternative way of dealing with the subjugation of agriculture to different techno-economic constraints and to external decision-making, whether economic or political. They are seen as a means of boosting the food sovereignty of populations and regions – especially the most vulnerable. In the Mediterranean countries of the former Soviet Bloc, current liberal-inspired reorganization merely perpetuates the great agrarian grid of the pre-collectivist and collectivist periods. Modernizing local rights and questioning the relegation to museum status of the old ways can set the scene for the resurgence of local production and sustainable management of natural resources.

Taken together, all these developments might be interpreted as a “return to the land” which could bring about a revaluation of land tenure through finding as yet unexploited territorial resources and generate new modes of regulation of land usage. Keeping within this framework, presentations should focus on new values and modes of usage inherent in new expectations such as local food or the environment; the contemporary dynamics of rural or suburban areas; new partnerships or relationships emerging in rural or suburban areas; and social and environmental conflicts.

Four axes will structure the Seminar and all contributions should fall within one of them.

1. New forms of land acquisition, seen from a resilience/ development perspective (cooperation, multi-partnership) and based on efficient utilization of territorial resources
2. Re-territorialization of agriculture considered at the level of (a) local action, with discussion of the viability and location of smallholdings as regards local-based food production systems and emerging territorial synergies, and (b) public policy (national, regional, municipal), where discussion will focus on their potential to support the re-territorialization of agriculture.
3. Links between the re-territorialization of agriculture and environmental considerations at the farm and territory levels. Notions such as environmental capital, ecosystem services, environmental impact, etc. can be brought in to suggest new analytical frameworks or new areas of study.
4. Land as a common good, considered in relation to the issues of responsible territorial governance (pastoral areas, undivided areas, oases, etc.).

Submission of abstracts

Every abstract will be reviewed by two members of the Scientific Committee. Abstracts will have to explain their scope in relation to one of the four axes of the Seminar and will include:

- The context of the problem and the principal objectives of the communication
- The methodology and the techniques used to tackle the research problem
- The basic conclusions
- A list of five keywords

Abstracts will have to be in accordance to the following: be written in English or in French; contain 1000-1500 words (including references). Text: Times New Roman, 12 pts, normal, justified. Paragraphs: 6 pts before et 0 pts after. Margins: 2,54 cm all sides. References should be in accordance to APA.

Address for abstract submission: foncimed2017@gmail.com

Registration: Registration is obligatory and should be made by e-mail to the address foncimed2017@gmail.com.

No registration fee is required.

Important dates	
15 May deadline	Submission of abstracts
15 June	Notification of acceptance
Starting from 15 June	Registration to the Seminar

The Seminar will be held for two days and the program will be structured around the four axes described above and an opening session. The third day will be dedicated to an on-site visit.

Publication of proceedings of the Seminar

- The abstracts accepted by the Scientific Committee will be published as an e-book that will be available in time for the Seminar.
- Selected papers will be put forward for a special issue of the journal *Regional Environmental Change*. Authors wishing to be considered for this publication should state this explicitly when submitting their proposal. A selection committee will meet after May 15th. Selected authors will need to provide a preliminary draft of at least 5000 words in an acceptable academic style by September 2017. The final version of the paper will be in English.

Scientific Committee

- **Anthopoulou Theodosia**, Panteion University, Athens-Greece
- **Ben Saad Abdallah**, National Institute of Agronomic Research of Tunisia (INRAT), Tunisia
- **Bergeret Pascal**, CIHEAM-Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier (IAMM), France
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Local Organising Committee

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Seminar Secretariat

For all information contact the secretariat of the Seminar in the electronic address:

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