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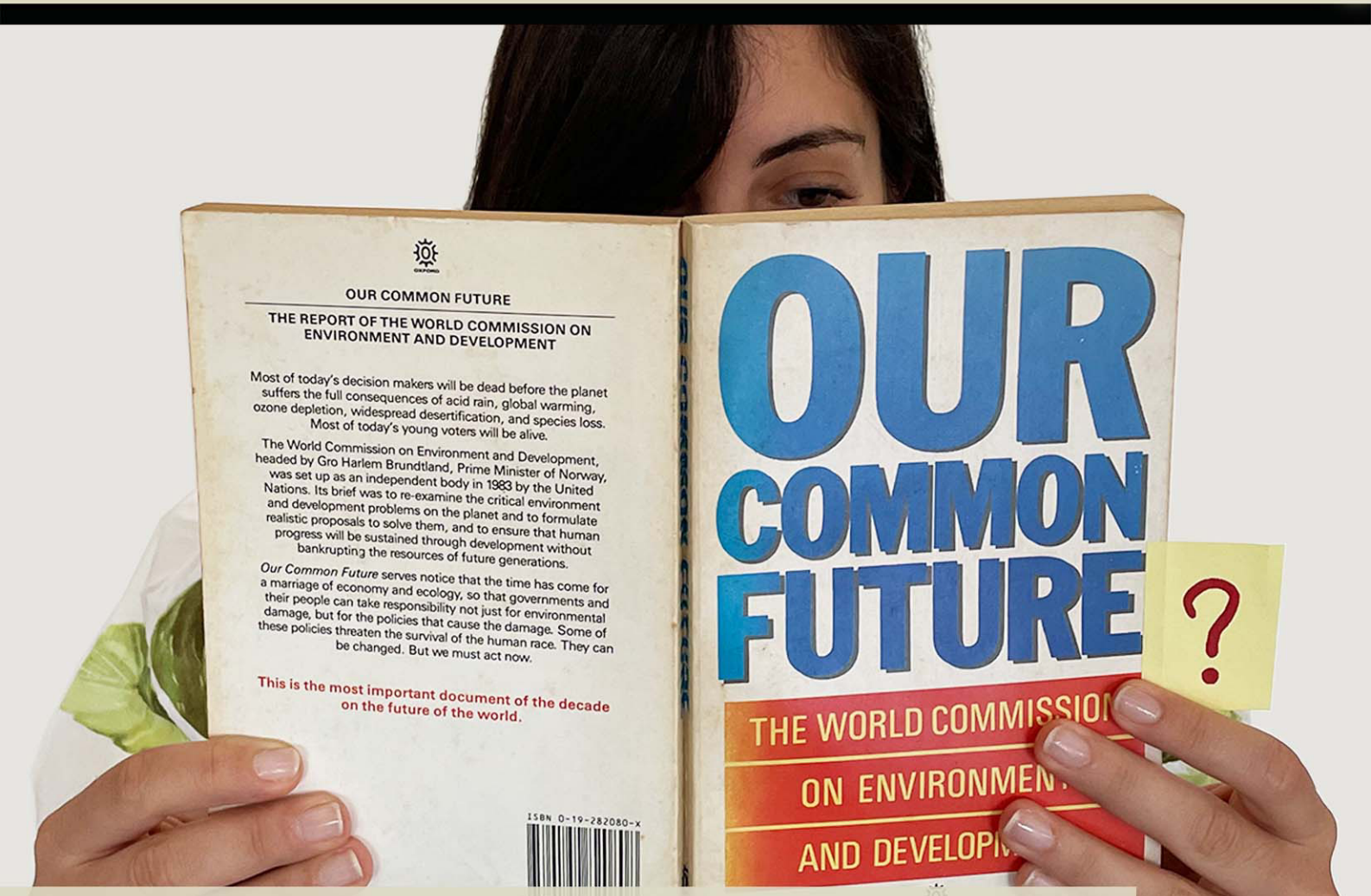
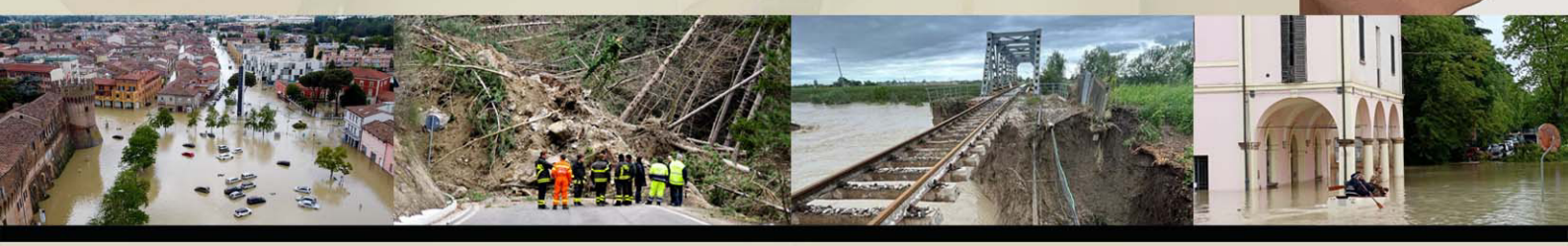


THE CITY CHALLENGES AND EXTERNAL AGENTS. METHODS, TOOLS AND BEST PRACTICES



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The cover image shows a copy of the 1987 UN report “Our Common Future – The report of the world Commission on Environment and Developments”. The picture has been taken in TeMA Lab in July 2023. On the bottom, there is a collage made up of four pictures of recent climate disasters (Source: Google images)

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The role of peri-urban agriculture in the pandemic era

Some case-studies compared in Italy

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Abstract
The relationship between agriculture, territory and the city has always been an object of interest for legislators due to the multiplicity of factors involved. In this paper some reflections are made on the new functions of peri-urban agriculture. The premise being that the rural landscape cannot be separated from the analysis of production factor needs. The control mechanisms of landscape variation, therefore, should take into account the main local features and the needs of the most recent phenomena. Often, however, the new land uses occurred through the progressive erosion of rural space from its original agricultural purposes. The logic behind this dismissing the loss of rural space in quantitative terms and, above all, in qualitative terms. The needs of the new panorama, which saw us forced to live with the pandemic that afflicted us in recent years, can, however, also be an interesting opportunity to improve agricultural development models, especially in suburban areas. This paper compares the opportunities offered by the European framework with its new tools and the local regional contexts that constitute the Italian panorama.

Keywords
Peri-urban agriculture; Landscape; Well-being.

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1. Introduction

At European level, general issues have been declared over the last few decades, and individual States have faced the marginalisation of agricultural activities in different ways. In Italy, at the end of the 1940s the legislator laid the foundations for the protection of the landscape, sanctioning - in an innovative attitude compared to other countries - that it was a Common Good. At that historical moment, agriculture really was a "primary" activity and was considered a cornerstone of the Italian economy. Many things have changed over the years involving radical changes. Only recently, attention is no longer dedicated only to landscape value areas, but also to "those significantly compromised or degraded", to the point of safeguarding both "UNESCO heritage sites" and "agricultural areas". Starting from international visions, the research identifies five fundamental issues, to which many open questions correspond: the recovery of the territory with new functional values, the relationship between agriculture and the city, the instability of the territory, the theme of Common Goods, and ultimately which conformations can be encouraged in the agricultural field.
Historically, agriculture was really a "primary" activity and it was considered a cornerstone of the economy; later, it became almost the obstacle to territorial development. Policies paying attention to landscape values were then developed, which seemed to be increasingly prominent. Only recently, with the refinement of planning intentions towards both of these factors (production and safeguarding aspects), attention is no longer dedicated only to areas with high landscape value, but also to "those significantly compromised or degraded".
This dissertation refers first to the problem at the international level, with particular reference to the relationship between the city, the territory and agricultural activities, highlighting the main problems at a global level, and then goes into the details of the case in question, that is Italy, in the belief that each country has approached the problem in a different way, based on its morphological and production characteristics. Some case studies will be examined which, according to the criteria that will be specified later, have represented cornerstones in the approach to this issue.

1.1 Contexts and main issues

There are many factors that come into play in the relationship between agriculture, landscape and the city.
The literature addresses this issue on the one hand by deepening the perspectives dealing with the land productivity (agronomic aspects, also connected to the incentive of Ecosystem Services), on the other by enhancing the cultural importance of traditional agricultural landscapes.
As regards production aspects, the agricultural territory - precisely when it is productive and therefore generates food products - is able to play an important role also towards the environment, as it contributes to the purification of the air and at the same time contributes to the control of floods and to the filtration of water soil (Pasher et al., 2013; Pangbourne & Roberts, 2015; Ying-Chieh et al., 2018; Pilogallo et al., 2029; Leone et al., 2020). The progressive transformation from agricultural land to building land (which soon became "built environment") has naturally altered the balance. Agriculture, for years now, has been in a difficult situation, due to progressive restriction of available land. At the same time, however, it must guarantee the production of food and, above all, it has the task of preserving natural resources (Swinton et al., 2007; Bretagnolle et al., 2018; Schaller et al., 2018).
In this field, research has produced considerable ideas and reflections. Many of them are focused on the need to guarantee biodiversity and emphasise the importance of Ecosystem Services, seen from the perspective of producers of sustainable agriculture. Food production is always a fundamental need, but - alongside it - also the production of Ecosystem Services as a non-marketable public good type, aimed at satisfying the needs in the socio-cultural field, occupies a relevant place. Their more or less positive effects are naturally related to the local mechanisms of rural development, in which policies in place in the individual states - and also in the individual regions composing them - play an important role (Bethwell et al., 2022; Haines-Young & Potschin, 2010; Dissart & Vollet, 2011; Manrique et al., 2015; Schaller et al., 2018).

In the application field, Ecosystem Services - as classified since 2005 (MEA, 2005) - constitute a test bed for those who practise agriculture, who are pushed to adopt agricultural production practices aimed at providing these services, understood as environmental public goods. However, it is true that these practices are never unidirectional and certainly the supply of some of them inevitably involves the consumption of others. In this sense, general agricultural policies, but above all those dictated by local authorities, become important. The classification of the aforementioned Millennium was then integrated by the Institute for European Environmental Policy (Russi et al., 2013) and is also progressively updated by the European Environment Agency analysing benefits that people derive from them (i.e. "what ecosystems do" for people): in version V5.1, in addition to the outputs of the biotic ecosystem, the feedback from the user community was also addressed to the abiotic outputs (Haines-Young & Potschin, 2018).

Many studies, therefore, deepen these elements and their interdependencies, referring to the repercussions they have on general urban planning tools and their strategic environmental assessments, also reinforcing the interpretation of the evolution of land use in the different territories, the seat of their research. (Ostrom & Ostrom, 2014; Syrbe & Walz, 2012; Rozas-Vásquez et al., 2016; Cervelli et al., 2017, 2018; Blackstock et al., 2021).

With regard, therefore, to the restoration of ecosystems, the interventions called Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) provide practical applications useful for increasing the sustainability of territories and environments (EEA, 2021; Seddon et al., 2021; Zucaro & Morosini, 2018; Francini et al, 2021). At present, they are widely applied in urban, natural forest or wetland ecosystems, but they can also be applied in agricultural landscapes. NBS in the agricultural sector are proposed as "the use of natural processes or elements" to improve the ecosystem functions of the environments and landscapes affected by agricultural practices and to improve livelihoods and other social and cultural functions, on various scales, temporal and spatial" (Simelton et al., 2021; Cialdea et al., 2020).

As regards the second aspect, that is the cultural importance of traditional agricultural landscapes, it is necessary to refer to the classifications of the World Heritage Convention which since 1972 has highlighted the need to protect the great variety of landscapes that are representative of the different countries in the world. In it, the strategic objectives are defined as the 5 Cs, or "Credibility" (Strengthen the Credibility of the World Heritage List, as a representative and geographically balanced testimony of cultural and natural properties of outstanding universal value); "Conservation" (Ensure the effective Conservation of World Heritage properties); "Capacity-building" (Promote the development of effective Capacity-building measures, including assistance for preparing the nomination of properties to the World Heritage List, for the understanding and implementation of the World Heritage Convention and related instruments); "Communication" (Increase public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through communication); and "Communities" (Enhance the role of communities in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention): the fifth C was introduced later, in 2007.

This document recognizes the importance of interactions between man and the environment and the great variety of these interactions: to this end, it introduces the concept of "cultural landscape", providing for the inclusion of sites encountering specific criteria in the World Heritage List.

As stated in the Convention, the term "cultural landscape" embraces a diversity of manifestations of the interaction between humankind and its natural environment. "Cultural landscapes often reflect specific techniques of sustainable land-use, considering the characteristics and limits of the natural environment they are established in, and a specific spiritual relation to nature. Protection of cultural landscapes can contribute to modern techniques of sustainable land-use and can maintain or enhance natural values in the landscape. The continued existence of traditional forms of land-use supports biological diversity in many regions of the world. The protection of traditional cultural landscapes is therefore helpful in maintaining biological diversity" (UNESCO, 1972, 2002).

It is therefore believed that this heritage should be preserved because of their exceptional qualities: it can be considered to be of "Outstanding Universal Value" and as such worthy of special protection against the dangers which increasingly threaten them. To this end, UNESCO, with periodic reviews and updates, publishes the Operational Guidelines to reflect the progressive decisions of the World Heritage Committee. The work of this international committee is to identify, on the basis of Tentative Lists and nominations submitted by States Parties, cultural and natural properties of Outstanding Universal Value which are to be protected under the Convention and to inscribe those properties on the World Heritage List (UNESCO, 2012, 2021; Rössler, 2008; Rössler & Manz, 2009; Cameron & Rössler, 2012; Taylor, 2014; Luengo, 2013).
Moreover, FAO, in 2002, launched the GIAHS (Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems) Programme in order to detect the presence of important agricultural systems. They are defined as "agroecosystems inhabited by communities that live in an intricate relationship with their territory" (FAO, 2002-todays) and more than 60 have been selected from all over the world. In them the role of their management by farmers, herders, fisher folk, and forest people is important (Tscharntke et al., 2005; Scheurer et al., 2018; Santoro et al., 2020; Pallotta et al., 2022).
In this paper, the greatest attention is given to the rural environment in a broad sense: the main goal was to clarify the meaning of the agricultural space related to its context. But what context? There are many contexts. In European countries, the phenomenon of the aggression towards rural spaces by the built environment is undoubtedly the most pressing element. Next to it, and connected to it, there is the phenomenon of the large number of abandoned areas that are no longer able to find their own identity. The innovativeness of this research was the analysis of application cases chosen in order to relate the maintenance of "agricultures" - deliberately defined in the plural because they are differentiated according to the vocation of the places and the economies of each production system - with maintaining the landscape features. To this end, the following paragraph defines the situation of the case in Italy.

1.2 The Italian framework

General criteria of national planning were set by the still current national urban planning law L. 1150/42 (Repubblica Italiana, 1942) which has remained, despite its additions, the benchmark, while however the outline changed and with it also the planning criteria. Before its enactment, the attention of the legislation was essentially aimed only at the regulation of private built-up areas and at defining the legislation for the construction of urban settlements. In the phase of the so-called first industrialisation, which involves the first half of the last century, the city does not really undergo new structures: only its surface area increases but there are no significant phenomena. The cited law establishes that the area around the city assumes an equally important role than the city itself. For this reason, it aims at defining a supra-municipal planning tool, which however has a very poor application in fact and therefore fails in its intent, because the administrations immediately focus on the drafting of municipal level plans.
Last century, particularly between the seventies and the eighties, the agriculture purpose was the optimisation of product quantity and the main aim was to favour agricultural land maximum "exploitation" - also to force the natural vocations of sites. It should also be emphasised that different rotations and changes in crops lead to new images of the agricultural landscape with radical variation, such as the case of specialised monocultures that already after World War II had begun to be establish on the national territory, with the enhancement of some areas and some products, such as flowers for the Liguria Riviera or apples for the Trentino Region.
More recently, the importance of the environment emerges strongly: needs for safeguarding it are focused, while agriculture changes its objectives and turns towards an improvement in quality. It is aimed towards both environmental recovery and site enhancement, especially in mountain areas, traditionally out of the mechanism of exasperated productions. The territory, therefore, as a scenario of social transformations but also a place of environmental resources, must become the object of attention by planning activities in order

to be able to contrast the most dangerous phenomena: soil subtraction by the urban system and the strong impoverishment of the environmental system. Therefore, urban planning for long-time paid attention only to urban phenomena showing interest in the agricultural land only as a possible place of expansion for the city itself.

However, it occurs that, while cities expanded on the rural land by modifying its structure, great changes also arose in agricultural activity techniques. Analysing rural areas cannot be separated from analysing production needs. Instead, in reality, areas traditionally dedicated to crops - even with good profitability - disappeared, compromising the balance of local physical-environmental resources. The economic development begins and the land performance changes: the urban growth is related to the abandonment of agricultural areas in which it is not possible to introduce mechanisation. Even the agricultural policy - supported by the launch of the Community Agricultural Policy mechanism - aims to develop activities in which it is possible to increase the production, providing assistance mechanisms for the weaker areas. At the same time, a desire arose to recover inland areas, present above all in the southern part of the country. In the 80s, there was a great turning point in the concept of the objectives of agricultural activity, oriented to the improvement in product quality. The environmental crisis, already existing at the end of 70's, culminates in 90's, when the errors of forcing strong production specialisations are brought into focus, including the stressful effects of the widespread monoculture surfaces which have had the serious consequence of definitively separating the zootechnical cycle from the productive-vegetable one (Cialdea, 2018).

Regarding landscape planning, the original approach derives from the 1940s aiming to enhance the aesthetic aspect with a strong focus on the "panorama": the first law introducing these concepts is Law no. 1497/1939 (Repubblica Italiana, 1939). It introduced the "landscape restriction" and a list must be drawn up for interventions in these restricted areas.

In the mid-80s Law 431/85 was enacted (Repubblica Italiana, 1985), introducing new concepts for the protection of areas with environmental interest. Furthermore, the 431/85 law has the great merit of obliging, for the first time, the Regions to carry out an organic and systematic protection of their territory: later the new Code focuses on the territory enhancement, fulfilling the dictates of the reform of Constitution Title V (Repubblica Italiana, 2001) which distinguished the activity of "protection" from that of "enhancement". The protection and enhancement of the landscape safeguard the values it expresses as perceptible manifestations of identity" (Repubblica Italiana, 2004). Moreover, the European Landscape Convention (Council of Europe, 2000) expects individual European States to develop their own evaluation methodologies for the management of their territories, including their different physical contexts (Roe, 2007; Busquets Fàbregas & Cortina Ramos, 2017; Council of Europe, 2017; Cialdea & Pompei, 2021a,b, Cialdea et al., 2022). The fundamental issue is how the State favours regional strategy implementation. This problem emerges particularly in Italy: the Landscape Plan intervenes, according to the Convention's principles, proposing not only the protection rules but also the land development proposals.

The article, therefore, is organised in this way: this first introductory section is followed by the second, in which the investigation methodology is explained and the questions to which this dissertation tries to give answers are specified, taking the cues from the elaborations carried out by some Italian regions. These examples have been chosen because these examined regions currently have landscape planning at the most advanced level, both in terms of urban planning tools for the landscape already approved - or at least adopted - and in terms of innovativeness of the territorial analyses carried out. Section 3 follows with the discussion of the results and a subsequent Section 4 contains conclusions, also highlighting the still open questions, which may be a starting point for the regions that are still addressing this topic.

2. Comparison methodology

This work is based on the research carried out on the actions undertaken by Local Authorities who have drawn up urban plans in which agricultural policies have been taken into account. The aim was to look for examples of Regions that in recent years have elaborated documents with a vision of urban planning policies not only based on the principles of urban sustainability but on the principles of "territorial" sustainability. This made it possible to compare plans referring to policies linked to the recent EU provisions. In fact, as is clear from the examination of the previous paragraph, European policies increasingly express the importance of agriculture as an engine for improving land management and guaranteeing environmental and socio-economic development of rural areas. In this context, we have also seen the role that the provision of environmental services from agriculture - through agri-environmental schemes and measures aimed at addressing the priorities identified by the EU - also bring positive effects to the fight against climate change, the improvement of biodiversity and the guarantee of water quality. In addressing these policies, contexts play an important role, namely "policies", "places" and "times". Therefore, the 21 Italian regions were grouped according to these criteria (Tab.1).

TOPICS	CONTENTS
CONTEXTS: – POLICY CONTEXT – PHYSICAL CONTEXT – TEMPORAL CONTEXT	Analysis of regional policies (with attention to agricultural policies) Agricultural conditions in plain and in mountain areas Recent documents (period 2000-2020)
DATA COLLATION	Good data availability: – from Official Documents – from Geographical Information Systems
KEY FINDINGS	Good answers to main agricultural issues

Tab.1 Selection Criteria for case studies

From this first screening five fundamental questions emerged and therefore the results of five case studies analysed are reported in the work: they seem to have given concrete answers to these five identified issues, namely (Tab.2).

KEY FINDINGS	QUESTIONS
FUNCTION	Recovery: New Functional Values?
RELATIONSHIP	Agriculture and the Urban areas' Greenbelt?
AGRI-URBAN	"Agri-Urban": Unsettled Landscape?
COMMON GOOD	Common Goods: Useful for the Community?
DIFFERENCES	Which landscape and which agricultural activity?

Tab.2 Key Findings Outputs

The first question is: Recovery: new functional values? It addresses the issue of "territorial decommissioning", all the more important in Regions (whose agricultural use is still a predominant factor on the territory as there are many in our country, albeit with different connotations and characteristics). The ultimate goal is to strive for a recomposition of the landscape with new functions always directly or indirectly linked to agriculture.

The question "Agriculture and the Urban areas' Greenbelt?" addresses the issue of urbanisation of the countryside which has produced the degradation of both environments, rural and urban. In this case the territorial vision must be integrated by a vision also at a local scale, since the relationship with urban centres is important. Agriculture in many cases surrounds the urban settlement area but fails to establish a relationship with it.

The third issue is "Agri-Urban": Unsettled Landscape?". In the relationship between the city and its countryside, the weak point is not only the marginal area between these two environments but attention must be paid to

a more extensive transition area between the city in its most compact form and the rural environment, and in agricultural detail. The question arises: Can agriculture restore stability to the landscape? Can it itself be a promoter of these actions? A fundamental role must be played by "people" who live and produce activities in the area.

The issue "Common Goods: Useful for the Community?" addresses the question of what the concept of "civic use", in the past recognized as a basic element for survival, can still be used today. There is no doubt that the theme of civic uses represents the close bond of communities with their own territory and that they themselves have determined the shape of the land and affected the landscape. Land intended for civic use is recognized as a "landscape good" and can represent an opportunity for sustainable local development.

Ultimately, the main theme is inevitably connected to the choice on what type of agriculture can be foreseen in a given territory: Which landscape and which agricultural activity? For this purpose, it is interesting to examine how many choices potentially envisaged (or in many cases "prohibited") by the regional landscape tool are accepted by the agriculture world.

Answers to these five questions have been put forth from analysed documents of the Italian regions. In the wake of the analysis of the question, regions that seemed to have suggested with their position a possible answer to the five questions were identified.

3. Results and discussion

Following the above indicated method, the research work has tried to catalogue all information deriving from Official Documents and from Geographic Information Systems databases, where available. Subsequently, in order to clarify results of this work, a comparison table has been created detailing the five case studies.

They have been summarised as follows (Tab.3).

TOPIC	**AGRICULTURAL FUNCTION**	**BEST PRACTICE SAMPLE**	**SOLUTION**	**REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL USES EVOLUTION**
Each topic corresponds to each of the five fundamental questions	Identification of a potential agriculture role, functional to relative questions.	The regional context that seems best to solve main emerging issues.	The planning tool useful to highlight best practices in the identified regional context.	Strength and role of land use for agricultural purposes

Tab.3 Final Key Findings and their description

The table in the first instance constitutes the passage from theoretical reflections to practical solutions, that is, it explains how to pass from the theoretical point of view to the practice of the solutions identified.

Therefore, the first three columns of the table refer to:

Topic: This column shows the five fundamental questions on the role that agriculture could play.

Agricultural Function: indicates what appears to be the agricultural function useful for answering the question. And therefore the identification of a best practice that could be functional to the solution of the problem is described in the *Best Practice Sample* column.

The last two columns of the table analyse these answers, comparing the solution and the agricultural environment, to deepen in which context the practical solution is inserted.

In the *Solution column*: an image of the analysed regional context is shown, in a map identified as the one that can best illustrate what has been highlighted in the research. Naturally, it is not exhaustive but must be seen together with the text of the considerations that are set out in this paragraph.

And finally the *Regional Agricultural Uses Evolution* column contains a map illustrating - in the examined regional context - how the agricultural component is relevant.

The following sub-paragraphs describe the table contents, as a result of the considerations made on the basis of the identified methodology.

3.1 Recovery: new functional values?

The first issue investigates the potential new functions that can be implemented through the recovery of lost activities. In this regard, the Lombardy Region has been identified because, through the Regional Green Network (RVR, Rete Verde Regionale) it wants to reinvent itself in a new system logic. Regarding planning tools, this Region presents an interesting approach combining two tools, the General Territorial Plan (PTR, Piano Territoriale Regionale) and the Landscape Plan (PPR, Piano Paesaggistico Regionale). The PTR, drawn up in accordance with the regional law for the territorial government (Regione Lombardia, 2005) has the "nature and effects of a territorial landscape plan" according to the provisions of the aforementioned new Italian Code: "the Regional Landscape Plan thus becomes a specific section of the General Territorial Plan, regarding landscape discipline, while maintaining a complete unity and identity" (Regione Lombardia, 2017).
The Regional Landscape Plan is, therefore, the reference framework for the choices made by local planning and landscape protection Authorities and in practice has a direct impact on all the municipalities' plans included and on their projects (Pedrazzini, 2015a). Furthermore, the recent debate about climate change - as a new challenge involving the landscape - has increasingly strengthened the idea that plans must have ever closer relations with programmes and policies favouring the improvement of landscape quality. In this sense, agricultural landscapes, as elements both tied to the past and to the future, play a fundamental role for the regional territory enhancement.
In fact, Lombardy is well suited for agricultural policies, as 43% of its surface is for agricultural use (Pedrazzini, 2015b; EupolisLombardia, 2016; Regione Lombardia, 2021). Within the landscape plan, it is very clear that it is necessary to refine the knowledge of the agricultural sector, because it is the sector in which the greatest transformations have taken place in the last 20 years. "The Regional Landscape Plan aims to highlight the different types of agriculture characterising the landscape, the rural building heritage at risk of abandonment and an artificial irrigation system unique in Europe" (Regione Lombardia, 2017).
Moreover, the PPR identifies the RVR as a recomposition and enhancement project of the Lombard landscape: this green network includes both valuable elements and also compromised, degraded and/ or abandoned areas.
The RVR (Regione Lombardia, 2016) analyses three main systems:

- the existing system of protected natural areas (i.e. Natura 2000 Network and Regional Parks), strengthening the links and relationships between the different areas characterised by different degrees of ecological and landscape quality, activating in particular projects for the conservation and recovery of abandoned and compromised natural, agricultural and peri-urban landscapes;
- the system of sustainable mobility routes, for which it provides for the improvement of its usability;
- the hydrographic system – including primary watercourses and the secondary network – identifying river landscapes, which very often is the only existing connection in territories mainly fragmented by anthropization and infrastructures.

In fact, the RVR project recognizes the structural elements and characters of the landscape, outlining a strategic unitary design. It constitutes an articulated project in relation to the tourist-fruition and recreational vocations of the natural, agricultural and anthropic (historical-cultural) landscape. The agricultural system is heavily analysed also thanks to the creation of the SIARL (Agricultural Information System of the Lombardy Region).
Therefore, agriculture in this case has clearly been identified as a resource able to regenerate the territory. Its new function, linked to the maintenance of its old activities but revised as a driving force for the recovery of abandoned or degraded areas, has been defined as a necessary "presidium" for the development of the territory.

3.2 Agriculture and the urban areas' Greenbelt?

The second theme concerns the intrinsic relationship between agriculture and the city. The Apulia Regional Landscape Plan has been analysed, focusing in particular on the "ancient areas" and enhancing their role in the projects at local level.

An interesting note is that this regional plan was the first approved in Italy (pursuant to the aforementioned Code), in 2015 (Regione Puglia, 2015a). In addition to this, it was highly innovative because it linked planning to the enhancement of social and cultural values, favouring planning oriented towards the exaltation of the most recognized values for the various territorial areas of the region. The link between the opportunities that the planning tool produces and the real feasibility of concrete territorial acts has been at the centre of the planners' thoughts, who foresee interventions on waterways, on the old paths of the sheep tracks, on the areas of abandoned quarries, all acts aiming to recover rural historical values. At the same time, it tried to promote activities that would also solve social problems, counteracting the phenomenon of abandonment of agricultural land, linked to the increasingly widespread movement of migration of young people and paying great attention to the coastal environment which constitutes a large part of the regional territory (Barbanente, 2011; Albrechts et al., 2020).

But, above all, this plan deeply analysed the relationship between the city and the countryside.

The Plan consists of a rich Strategic Scenario (Regione Puglia, 2015b), to which some Strategic Projects are connected, linked to the Five territorial projects for the regional landscape that the Plan itself has identified which are: The Regional Ecological Network, The City-Countryside Pact, The infrastructural system for soft mobility, The enhancement and integrated requalification of coastal landscapes and territorial systems for the use of patrimonial assets. In particular, the City-Countryside Pact is centred on the redevelopment of suburbs and peri-urban agricultural areas (Regione Puglia, 2013).

It aims to create a new alliance between these two adjoining settlements, and "different countryside typologies" for their future planning. The Strategic Scenario has been identified by the Region (and then actually proposed in other areas of further regions as well) with the aim of clearly defining these two environments and bridging the gaps that each of them now inevitably presents. The urban environment, here as in many other Italian regions, no longer has clear margins and it is also necessary to recover its own identity and quality, both in building and in urban planning, while the rural environment has witnessed the urban enlargement unarmed and progressively lacking identity.

For this reason, the City-Countryside Pact identifies some planning tools, each of them linked to a well-identified territorial typology. They are: The Urbanised Countryside, The Inhabited Countryside, The "ristretto" Countryside and The Deep Countryside. For these different agricultural land typologies, the Plan also formulates practical proposals: the Multifunctional Agricultural Park (to be implemented for improving ecological, social and cultural values, oriented to redevelopment or to enhancement) and the Co2 Park (to be implemented near industrial areas with urban forestry operations for environmental compensation, constituting barriers to noise and to dust to protect adjacent residential settlements) (Regione Puglia, 2013, 2015c).

The planning example reported, therefore, may be relevant for two reasons: the first concerns the attention to methodology creation for settlement typologies seen in the close relationship that they have created (or imposed) on the surrounding agricultural land and relative rural space. The second reason consists in the fact that this approach has also meant rethinking the overall planning perspective according to the values that the territory represents, which are identifiable in their vocation, as well as in the main features of the agricultural space: that is, the plan was able to clearly highlight the close relationship between the ecological network and the spaces around the cities.

The City-Countryside Pact "had the primary objective of stopping the long-lasting destruction of the countryside by seemingly endless new urban expansions." Moreover, the solid theoretical structure allowed the project experiments on the territory to be carried out in a short time: what these projects have in common

is "an experimental and exploratory nature, which implies a propensity to learn all together in a co-productive effort to "do things" differently than usual." (Albrechts et al., 2020; Barbanente & Grassini, 2019, 2022).

3.3 "Agri-Urban": unsettled landscape?

The main question of this third issue is whether agriculture can restore stability to the landscape. Certainly agriculture can be a promoter of positive action, with the aim of safeguarding the territory even in its physical component (stability) and it may also be able to define a new territorial structure.

In this case, the behaviour of the Municipality of Bologna has been analysed, because it has paid a lot of attention to the question of urban agriculture. In the recently approved City Masterplan (Comune di Bologna, 2021), ample emphasis is placed on improving the quality of the environment, quality of life and infrastructure. This Plan addresses three main strategic objectives: the first one concerns environmental protection and focuses on the recovery and redevelopment of the existing asset against the expansion outside the urban space. The second thematic axis concerns living, and the related quality of life both in the urban centre and in its suburbs, to create a liveable and inclusive city. The third axis concerns infrastructure, with the idea that the regeneration of the city is only possible starting with major investments in the most important infrastructures.

In this context, it proposes urban and local strategies and most of them are related to the presence of urban agriculture.

On the other hand, also the previous City Masterplan (Comune di Bologna, 2008) had identified the rural territory as a primary field for experimenting pilot interventions in areas of agricultural, landscape and ecological interest. Therefore, an interesting case to emphasise is the experience of a participation process activated in the Bologna Municipality specifically referring to agriculture uses. Inhabitants, who live and produce activities, play a fundamental role. The case of the Laboratory, created in the Emilia Romagna Region for the area around the city of Bologna, analyses new potentialities deriving from the relationship of collaboration between public/private and local community and proposes two interesting solutions, the "countryside park" and the "migrant agriculture".

The activity of the Laboratory has investigated conflicts starting from the role played by the protagonists of the future transformation and the ability of agriculture to promote a process of protection and regeneration of the landscape. Through the Scenario tool, participants simulated different future possibilities and questioned needs and problems for a new spatialization of the city-countryside border as a transitional area, it will be possible to locate a place or a sequence of places specifically dedicated to the relationships between urban and rural areas (Branduini et al., 2016; Scazzosi, 2016).

In 2017 the Laboratory was created, based on the Agro-Urban Area Agenda: it produced lots of business projects by single actors or networks of actors. It was named "Hybridizing Public Processes". The aim of this Laboratory project was to create a new model of agriculture that, through culture, could be able to rediscover the value of tradition. In this way they think it is possible to start a global process of regeneration of agricultural spaces, giving it back the role not only of agricultural production but also of cultural production. It involved the north-east agricultural zone of Bologna City.

Two hypotheses, considered compatible with each other, emerged: the first one concerns the theme of memory and foresees the conservation of the existing signs and the recovery/restoration of main features of the Bologna countryside before mechanisation ("park-countryside"). The planting of hedgerows and the farm grid are re-proposed to reproduce the historical landscape that can be attractive and productive at the same time, in which ancient fruit crops are also included. The second proposal, with a stronger social impact, was defined as "migrant agriculture" and plans to start, with the collaboration of non-EU local inhabitants, the cultivation of vegetables that are not produced in Italy but that immigrants commonly use in their traditional kitchen, buying them imported at the expense of quality and price.

The activity also has strong social and economic impacts: cultivated products - exotic and quality - are also of interest for the F.I.CO (the Italian Farming Factory) catering activities, offering fresh local products not very widespread and known in the ordinary market. The landscapes of memory merge with the new landscapes of a multi-cultural and multi-cultivated city" (Regione Emilia Romagna, 2017).

3.4 Common goods: useful for the community?

The fourth theme concerns civic uses. As a strong guarantee of the relationship between local communities and their own territory, they have had great importance in the past also in terms of maintaining the traditional landscape shape.

With regard to this issue, the case of the Regione autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia has been investigated: it is also one of the five regions with the new Regional Landscape Plan (PPR-FVG) approved, pursuant to the aforementioned Code (Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia, 2018a). The PPR-FVG is organised in a Statutory part, a Strategic part and the last one dedicated to Management. In particular, in the General Report of the Plan, civic uses are explicitly cited as heritage of the territory's identity: "citizens want a Friuli Venezia Giulia region that knows how to combine new needs with the maintenance of its own landscape identity, which enhances its own historical, cultural (eg: civic uses) and natural resources in terms of sustainability." (Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia, 2018b).

In Italy, civic uses were introduced by the Italian legislator in 1927: they are goods of public interest and provides that the community benefitting from them also has the obligation to preserve them, as a good for everybody. The community, in fact, shares rights and duties with respect to a system of resources that concern two categories: a) land that can be conveniently used as a forest or as a permanent pasture; b) land that can be conveniently used for agricultural cultivation. The principles on which these goods are based are very firm, which are, in addition to the constraint of agro-forestry-pastoral use, the inalienability of goods (the integrity of collective property is considered to be of public interest), their indivisibility and no usucapion possibility (in line with the principle of inalienability). For them, finally, the law establishes the imprescriptibility of the civic use right (Repubblica Italiana, 1927).

In more recent years, the aforementioned law 431/85 highlights them as it subjects them ope legis to the landscape constraint. It states: "all portions of territory burdened by civic use or collective property are subject to the landscape constraint", as then also taken up by the Code of Cultural Heritage and Landscape (Repubblica Italiana, 1985, 2004).

Finally, civic uses are also referred to by the framework law on protected areas (Repubblica Italiana, 1991) which highlights their importance, precisely because they are a testimony of the integration between man and the natural environment and their conservation is necessary to safeguard a collective interest but also to maintain the correct landscape shape, also enhancing its environmental function, in terms of biodiversity conservation. In practice, the issue of maintaining these goods is dealt with in a non-univocal way in the various regions and there is a general tendency to sanction their cancellation, i.e. many regions have enacted regional laws that allow for "declassification". However, this is not what happens in some regions, such as Friuli Venezia Giulia. The huge regional patrimony of these goods, corresponding to more than 7% of the regional surface, has been subject to verification since the end of the 90s. For them, the multiplicity of functions has been highlighted, from ecological to productive (Carestiato, 2015). In general, they are in small communities (hamlets or small mountain and hilly municipalities) in which the collective resource is mostly represented by woods and pastures. Of course, the use of wood is no longer as frequent as in the past, as today's heating systems use diesel or methane, but its use is still constant, especially in mountain areas (Carestiato, 2008; Daici, 2021).

In the region in question, economic contributions are envisaged for the maintenance of these goods and the aforementioned Regional Landscape Plan-FVG not only provides for their protection and enhancement, but also a viable way of managing them (Regione Autonoma Friuli-Venezia Giulia, 2016).
Furthermore, the primary public function of collective ownership, namely nature conservation, also offers new possibilities linked to the start-up of tourist and agritourism economic activities. This is what happens, for example, in areas dedicated to winter sports: a very interesting case is that of the ski resorts of Madonna di Campiglio in the Trentino Region, where the Comunità delle Regole di Spinale e Manez directly manages its own areas (47 sq km) consisting of woods, pastures, unproductive areas and areas used for skiing: in fact the land is given in concession to the Società Funivie Madonna di Campiglio S.p.A. (Carestiato, 2015) and is known to everyone as one of the most beautiful areas for skiing in Italy.

3.5 Which landscapes and which agricultural activities?

This last issue raises the question of how many conflicts and ambiguities can arise in relation to the decisions made for agricultural activities. In this case, Local Authorities' choices are fundamental, called upon to decide whether to favour the protection of their landscape or the development of their territories. An example can be the case of Tuscany with respect to the possibility of planting specialised crops, such as those destined for the wine production.
The Landscape Plan of this region was the second to be approved in Italy (Regione Toscana, 2015a). In this case the Region choice was to have a single plan, the Piano di Indirizzo Territoriale (PIT): it is configured as a regional planning tool containing both territorial and landscape dimensions, in which the landscape component still maintains its own clearly recognizable identity.
There are four territorial structural invariants, related to different landscape features: hydro-geomorphology (the strong geodiversity and articulation of the hydrographic basins origins urban and rural landscapes), ecosystem (the dominant matrices are mainly forest or agricultural, which are associated with high levels of biodiversity and important naturalistic values), polycentric and reticular settlements layout (as historical settling from the Etruscan period to modernity organised in networks of small and medium-sized cities of high artistic value) and Tuscan rural asset (with the close and coherent relationship between the settlement system and the agricultural land). As regards this fourth invariant, the Plan provides the recognition of the historical rural landscapes, aimed at promoting protection, requalification and restoration interventions, in consideration of their vulnerability and the compromising risk factors. The catalogue offers descriptive indications on the main rural landscapes and their socio-economic, landscape and settlement characteristics: they are useful for identifying traditional features in today's rural landscapes, despite the transformations that have taken place (Regione Toscana, 2012, 2015a,b).
However, there are numerous other aspects that mutually link landscape and development, and some of them are particularly relevant: new professions related to the knowledge economy and to social issues oriented to collective well-being. And on the other hand there are productive activities of excellence for high quality supply chains (oil, wine, typical products), located in rural contexts and settlements of high historical testimonial value.
This point was the subject of disputes between planners and agricultural operators. The landscape plan identifies some threats relating to the abandonment of agriculture on the one hand and the processes of agricultural intensification and specialisation on the other.
The criticism addressed by the agriculture world is that the only model to be pursued is the traditional agriculture: “Agriculture is not considered "as such" as a response to the degradation of the territory and as a landscape resource, but only if it responds to abstract canons of "traditionality", with respect to which every transformation is classified as a criticality to counter.” By contrast, they reply that there is therefore no risk, in any area of Tuscany, of a "wild" specialisation towards monocultural models, such as to justify the alarmist

tones and the consequent restrictive guidelines (CIAToscana, 2014, 2015). The issue is linked to viticulture areas. It is relevant because Tuscany is among the Italian regions with the highest wine production, together with the Piedmont region. Anyway, in the specific situation, in reality many of the observations of the agricultural world have been accepted and after a negotiation the restrictions have been widened and the critical issues resolved. Here the example was given as evidence of the dynamism of the plan, which was able to accommodate the needs of production, while having the primary interest in safeguarding the territory (Poli, 2015a,b; Carta et al., 2022).
In the final table (Tab.4) conclusion remarks of the total comparison.

4. Conclusions

The landscape protection, therefore, is strictly correlated to different functions of agricultural activities, whose multifunctional character is emphasised. Their role remains fundamental as they strongly affect the landscape components and continue to be the result of the anthropic activity on it. Consequently, they are the most responsible for the modifications of the visual assets also towards urban agglomerations that progressively overrun them. Changes in rules, made by the legislator in recent years, have not yet managed to significantly affect operational phases of planning tools.
The aforementioned European Landscape Convention, whose intentions have been pursued also by the Code of Cultural and Landscape Heritage, emphasising the landscape perception peculiarities, highlights the need to intervene both on the "landscapes of everyday life and on degraded landscapes". It also fits well with the principles of the Rural Development Programs, indicating the landscape as a strategic objective of the agricultural sector (Frank & Pilutti Namer, 2021).
In Italy, the Landscape Plan tool, which all regions must use, does not always manage to integrate well with the will to develop agricultural policies. Practical applications of the European Landscape Convention principles often did not give the expected results, even if the potential of the Landscape Plan could be greater than that of the local planning of the individual municipalities with their own Masterplans (Cialdea & Pompei, 2021c; Barbanente et al., 2021).
The major problem, highlighted by this work, arises in the comparison between documents aimed at safeguarding the landscape and programs providing incentives for the agricultural sector. In countries, such as Italy, where a large part of the territory is subject to landscape constraints, the presence or the will to incentivize specialised crops can be an occasion for conflict (Soulard et al., 2017; Perrin et al., 2020).
The need to find a balance, or rather to create a "new" balance, between these two needs is more necessary than ever in agricultural areas, but especially in peri-urban agricultural areas. The concept of agri-urban must find support in new forms of governance, which take into account specificities of individual territorial contexts. These new forms of landscape capable of fulfilling new functions may be the turning point for the new equilibrium (Gottero et al., 2021).
The case examined in Italy presents very different situations, as also highlighted by the European documents: they underline how much it is a country with highly diversified agro-ecosystem conditions. They also note that "in Italy there are plenty of traditional landscapes, which are an important factor for rural areas for both environmental and economic aspects. The main threats are intensification, abandonment and landscape fragmentation. High natural value areas cover potentially around 16% of the UAA (Utilised Agricultural Areas) taking in consideration national estimations for the most valuable class: the most important typology being mosaic areas with low intensity farming and semi-natural elements" (European Commission, 2020, 2021).
From this work, it emerged how important the role played by Local Authorities - and in particular by the Regions – is. In this first research phase, the cases chosen were able to account for the diversity of territorial situations: the physical condition of Italy passes from reality of the mountain range of the Alps (we have seen the cases of the northern regions of Lombardy and Friuli Venezia Giulia) to the other mountainous context of

the Apennine chain (which crosses central Italy examined with the cases of Emilia Romagna and Tuscany) up to the condition of a Southern Region of Apulia which has a complex environment being also crossed by the Apennines, but with large flat areas and a long strip of coast on the Adriatic Sea.

"Agricultures" therefore are varied: from the use of agricultural land with extensive activities to the presence of large grazing or arable land areas up to the areas abandoned by agriculture and without a new identity. For all the examined cases, the aggression of agricultural land by the expansion of the settlement system, with cities of different sizes and different conformations, is the greatest problem. The other constant factor, found in all the examples, is the value of the landscapes in which these agricultural areas are inserted, which often have high values of biological diversity and almost always of high perceptive value (with the consequent constraints that these conditions impose).

The salient results from the examination, inevitably linked to the landscape planning tool, can be summarised as follows:

a. necessary close connection between the vast area planning tool for landscape protection (the Landscape Plan) with mechanisms that can favour practical projects (a great contribution emerged from the case examined for the Issue 2)
b. great need for exhaustive cognitive frameworks (also with regard to aspects of historical rural landscapes (as clearly emerged from Issues 1 and 5)
c. need to enhance (and not cancel as is increasingly the case) of civic uses (of which the case used for Issue 4). Issue 3 bears witness to what, besides planning of a vast area, can be done on a local scale.

Ultimately, this work has attempted to relate some of the solutions indicated in the Italian regions and the opportunities offered by planning tools for the landscape that they have adopted in order to verify how much they, in their different approaches, have been able or not to favour in practice, an enhancement of agriculture.

TOPIC	**ISSUE 1** **Recovery: New Functional Values?**
AGRICULTURAL FUNCTION	**Agriculture =** **Landscape Praesidium** Agriculture is a resource capable of regenerating the land. Agricultural areas Recovery: new functional values for **abandoned or underutilized settlements**, no longer able to be only places of food production but which can reinvent themselves. The **goal** is: to govern the transformation of the agricultural asset by integrating the landscape component into agricultural policies, especially in regions where the percentage of land dedicated to agriculture is high.
BEST PRACTISE SAMPLE	**Local Context**: the **Lombardy Region** Landscape Plan, in which 43% of the regional territory is agricultural. The main aim is to strengthen connections and relationships between areas characterised by **different degrees of environmental and landscape qualities**, in particular activating projects for the conservation and recovery of abandoned and compromised natural, agricultural and peri-urban landscapes. The Lombardy Region through the RVR (**Regional Green Network**) wants to reinvent itself in a system logic: - protection of natural environments - safeguarding regional biodiversity and the continuity of the ecological network - protection and enhancement of natural hydrography - **recomposition and protection of rural cultural landscapes and woods** - containment of conurbative processes and urban dispersion - landscape recomposition of peri-urban contexts - landscape requalification of compromised and degraded areas.
SOLUTION	The Landscape Plan, in its "Prescriptive Design Component" dedicated to green infrastructures, defines the Regional Green Network as a strategic project aimed at protecting, restoring and enhancing the quality of the landscape, through operations for the recreational-tourist-use enhancement of its landscapes (natural, agricultural and historical-cultural).

	It identifies the following areas: "RVR dell'alta pianura" (High Plain areas): Naturalistic and Agriculture Main Feature; "RVR alpina" (the Alps area): Naturalistic Main Feature; "RVR pre-alpina" (the pre-Alps area): Naturalistic and Historical/cultural Main Feature; "RVR collinare" (Hilly areas): Naturalistic and Historical/cultural Main Feature; "RVR bassa pianura" (Low Plain areas): Agriculture Main Feature; "RVR Oltrepò Pavese" (the Oltrepò Pavese area): Naturalistic, Historical/cultural and Agriculture Main Feature. **Sources**: Pedrazzini, 2015a,b; Regione Lombardia, 2005, 2016, 2017, 2021; EupolisLombardia, 2016
REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL USES EVOLUTION	The region, despite having numerous areas subjected to considerable anthropic pressures, still has strong characteristics of rurality and naturalness. The diachronic analysis of agricultural areas over the last twenty years shows a decrease in agricultural areas, but above all in areas with a lower agricultural tradition. **Sources**: Regione Lombardia, 2021

TOPIC	**ISSUE 2:** **Agriculture and the city: Urban areas' Greenbelt?**
AGRICULTURAL FUNCTION	**Agriculture =** **Pact with The City** Agriculture is characterised by the relationship between **the city and the countryside**, increasingly linked by a compromising physical proximity. The most widespread condition is that the two environments, urban and rural, find themselves facing each other without dialogue and often the same rural building remains "disoriented" in the sub-urbanity. The **goal** is: to link Landscape and Rural issues through new design tools including the so-called "Restricted Countryside".
BEST PRACTISE SAMPLE	**Local Context**: in the **Apulia Region** Landscape Plan, where "antichi ristretti" (green belt surrounding city) exist. the "Co-design Pact" between the Landscape Plan and the Rural Development Plan that restores environmental quality to both territories, urban and rural. **Current conditions:** - urbanisation of the countryside - growth of the degradation of the urban living environment - increase in the degradation of the rural living environment **Possible solutions:** - social gardens - suburban parks - proximity markets - educational farms, - "green hands on the city".
SOLUTION	The Landscape Plan identifies the so-called City-Countryside Pact scenario (with a model later followed by other regions as well) with the aim of clearly defining the two environments and bridging the gaps that each of them now inevitably presents. It identifies some design tools that are each linked to a well-identified territorial area on the regional territory. They are: - The Urbanised Countryside, - The Inhabited Countryside, - The "ristretto" Countryside, - The Deep Countryside. **Sources**: Regione Puglia, 2013, 2015a,b,c; Albrechts et al., 2020; Albrechts et al., 2020; Barbanente, 2011; Barbanente & Grassini, 2019, 2022.
REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL USES EVOLUTION	The Plan identifies the areas affected by the different types of transformation and persistence of agro-forestry and urban uses. In it emerge the extensifications in agriculture and the processes of recolonization of spontaneous vegetation, the intensifications in dry and irrigation and the deforestation for grazing and cultivation and the persistence of agricultural use. **Sources**: Regione Puglia, 2015c

TOPIC	ISSUE 3: "Agri-Urban": Unsettled Landscape?
AGRICULTURAL FUNCTION	**Agriculture =** **Solution to instability** Agriculture is the meeting place **between land and people**, useful for creating new contemporary landscapes: the park-countryside project is also a new possibility for creating a quality brand related to local production. The **goal** is: to create a new model of agriculture able to rediscover the value of tradition. In this way, it is possible to start a global process of regeneration of agricultural spaces, giving it back the role not only of agricultural production but also of culture production.
BEST PRACTISE SAMPLE	**Local Context**: **Participatory process** started in Bologna in **Emilia Romagna Region**, in order to underline agriculture's role in the city. The Bologna Municipality, which through the activities of a recent Laboratory, has deepened the study of the area around the city of Bologna. In the hypothesis of also being able to involve existing companies in gathering around a project and a brand, the hypothesis is made of a new version of the "**Countryside Park**". In it: the topic of memory (**historical rural landscape**) and the topic of innovation (**"migrant agriculture"**) coexist and complement each other.
SOLUTION	The Regional Landscape Plan identifies the landscape units and describes the presence of agricultural contexts close to the urban context areas for the city of Bologna. The survey area is representative of the characteristics of the entire agricultural wedge north-east of Bologna. The set-up originated from centuriation, with a road grid and a rather regular farm grid. This portion of territory, to be valorised and rediscovered, brings together a set of contiguous farms delimited by minor road infrastructures. **Sources**: Regione Emilia Romagna, 2017; Comune di Bologna, 2021; Branduini et al., 2016; Scazzosi, 2016.
REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL USES EVOLUTION	The rural asset designed by the Laboratory retains numerous typical elements of the traditional agricultural landscape (rows of trees, hedges, ditches, canals). There are also historic manor villas which represent an interesting plot for more structured itineraries. **Sources**: Comune di Bologna, 2021

TOPIC	ISSUE 4: The Common Goods: Useful for the Community?
AGRICULTURAL FUNCTION	**Agriculture =** **Common Good** The problem concerns the issue of the recovery of common goods (**civic uses** in favour of the community). The current situation, in recent decades, has seen total inattention paid towards these areas and the progressive cancellation of the restrictions intended for collective use. The **goal** is: to ensure that the lands intended for civic uses, recognized as a "landscape good", can represent an opportunity for sustainable local development**.**
BEST PRACTISE SAMPLE	**Local Context**: the **Friuli Venezia Giulia Region** Landscape Plan pays great attention to Collective Properties. In the theme of the overall **renaissance of landscape and environmental protection** a role could also be played by common goods, that is the **Civic Uses** mentioned to invoke the binding and restraining aspect of the development of a certain area. They can play a role in hill or mountain contexts and could make the restoration of a part of the agricultural landscape possible.
SOLUTION	In the General Report of the Landscape Plan, civic uses are explicitly mentioned as an identity heritage of the territory: "to combine the new needs with the maintenance of its landscape identity, which enhances its resources historical, cultural (e.g. civic uses) and natural in terms of sustainability."

	In several cases that have already been tested, the ancient civic use value has been transformed into exchange value: common goods, e.g. the forest, have acquired a market value and are today the lever that makes it possible to implement new projects. Thus a virtuous process has been triggered which seems to lay the foundations for starting a new development of the territory and which can also be replicated in other regions. **Sources**: Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia, 2018a,b; Carestiato, 2015, 2008; Baccichet, 2020; Daici, 2021.
REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL USES EVOLUTION	From an estimate by the Commissioner for civic uses of Trieste, the collective landed property in Friuli would correspond to 7% of the entire regional territory = 7,846 km². The estimate includes all assets held in the community's various names, managed and unmanaged, or yet to be verified. **Sources**: Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia, 2018a
TOPIC	**ISSUE 5** **What landscape and what agricultural activity?**
AGRICULTURAL FUNCTION	**Agriculture =** **"agricultures"** It appears of fundamental importance to analyse the **current and past uses** of agricultural territories. The **goal** is: Much attention deserves the "quality agri-food chains" in the historic agricultural sectors still characterised today by strong dependence on external markets and companies.
BEST PRACTISE SAMPLE	**Local Context**: the Territorial Management Plan holding the value of a Landscape Plan of the **Tuscany Region**. For this purpose, it is interesting to examine how much the choices potentially envisaged (or in many cases "prohibited") by the landscape tool are - or not - accepted by the world of agriculture. An example can be the one that has been determined in the Tuscany Region with respect to the possibility of planting **specialised crops**, such as those destined for the production of wine.
SOLUTION	The Landscape Plan identifies the various systems based on their geological, environmental and physical features, as well as their fruition characteristics. It also suggests the creation of a river contract with the same value as an agricultural park along the banks of the Arno, on the Florentine plain. **Sources**: Regione Toscana, 2012, 2015a,b; CIAToscana, 2014, 2015; Poli, 2015a,b; Carta et al., 2022.
REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL USES EVOLUTION	Tuscany is the most important and best-suited wine region in Italy together with Piedmont. **Sources**: Regione Toscana, 2012a

Tab.4 Conclusion Remarks Comparison

The open question concerns the planner's choices. They must select between vast area and local projects to combine the factors of valorisation and competitiveness of the agricultural sector, especially in sites with strong naturalistic and landscape values.

However, peri-urban agriculture can fulfil the objectives of economic and environmental sustainability, especially if local and regional policies prove to be adequate for improving the functions of metropolitan agriculture and exploiting its potential.

Furthermore, the promotion of agriculture in peri-urban areas today assumes a strategic significance beyond the productivist or landscape aspect, becoming a theme of a "cultural" nature.

In fact, these "border areas" represent a unique opportunity for a closer comparison and dialogue between local culture and metropolitan culture and therefore can become a "laboratory" for new social, economic and productive relationships, crucial for a re-evaluation of the new rural reality.

At the same time, the fact of having such an important, close and attractive market for agricultural products as represented by the urban centre, gives the peri-urban area the potential of great productive opportunity: in fact, urban consumption trends show a growing attention towards short agricultural product supply chains. Recalling what was illustrated in the introduction, studying incentive mechanisms of Nature-Based Solutions also improves the quality of urban life.

This is what happens when, for example, urban agricultural parks are created in the city, with a view to increasing the well-being deriving from the reevaluation of urban green spaces, creating, at the same time, technical solutions to safeguard the territory.

Due to the pandemic, "urban green" is a growing necessity in our cities (Gaviglio et al., 2021). In fact, with respect to what was outlined by the EU AGRI Committee (Piorr et al., 2018), the agricultural park can be considered an important vector of connections between different systems, including economic and physical factors, involving the city and its surrounding areas. Moreover, the role of the pandemic shouldn't be overlooked with regards to its impact on some characteristics of entrepreneurship, which can be further implemented given their beneficial effects on the landscape. These new forms are increasingly gaining ground in urban areas: for example, numerous farms have developed forms of direct sales compatible with the pandemic scenario (organised shopping packages, supply to solidarity purchasing groups) which can also be combined with delivery with low environmental impact vehicles.

Finally, the ever-increasing diffusion of forms of experiential tourism (paying to have an agricultural work experience, together with the hospitality and catering), which due to site capacity is naturally offered to a limited number of users, is leading to a sharp reduction in crowds, vital when considering public health.

The multiplicity of elements involved requires situations examined on a case-by-case basis, factoring territorial contexts. However, it is equally important that a unitary framework be defined at national level for the promotion policies of agricultural activities in areas that are sensitive from a landscape point of view. And it is even more important that land use plans are implemented, as is already the case in many other European countries: they contribute to a good cognitive framework of the territory, above all because they are constantly updated. The agricultural tradition is a background of many European contexts, but certainly in Italy it represents a very significant reality, which however has been strongly distorted in too many cases. This work, as the first phase of an ongoing research, wanted to contribute to increasing the reflections useful for identifying new strategies for the agricultural territory so that it is not just a result of building developments.

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