

We, the hazelnut producer family farmers and their organisations coming from Georgia, Italy and Turkey gathered on April 17, 2018 in Nepi at the joint *International conference on the hazelnut supply chain* and shared our experiences to build international solidarity among hazelnut producers.

We come from very different farming systems, but we have a lot in common and we share the same struggles – we are sisters and brothers, and not enemies! We can't accept the dominant role of agribusiness and, in particular of Ferrero, that impose unfair practices, in the hazelnut value chain, including through contract farming model. We want a value chain model which respects our and our community rights.

Food sovereignty and agroecology lead our movement. Celebrating the international day of peasant struggles, in solidarity with the peasant of the world, we commit ourselves to:

1. Set up an international network of the hazelnut family farmers, which will be promoted by us, the farmers from Italy, Turkey and Georgia, aiming at spreading to all other hazelnut producing countries.

The main objectives of the network will be:

- Set up a permanent coordination for information sharing between the hazelnut producers from different countries;
  - Strengthen our cooperation, support organization of the joint events and activities;
  - Elaborate joint advocacy strategy for improved, equal frame-conditions for hazelnut farmers;
  - Build up a common platform for the struggle against low prices.
2. Promote institutionalized framework, where FAO plays a major role as a space for defining and implementing framework regulations, for the definition of contracts between farmers/their organizations and agrifood industries ensuring the protection of our rights.
  3. Promote public investments in family farming or small-scale farmers' cooperatives supporting them in developing processing facilities at farm/community levels, as well as direct access to local markets.

At the same time, we seek to stop public investments supporting monoculture and capital intensive plantations.

4. Build common and alternative markets, promote local networks and cooperatives and strengthen their capacity to cooperate at international level.
5. Set up permanent training and inter-exchange between hazelnut farmers, with the reference to rural cultural traditions, based on farmer to farmer methodology.
6. Create a web platform of hazelnut producers to exchange information on:
  - Agroecological models of production, processing and access to markets;
  - Regulations and legislation relevant to hazelnut producers;
  - New pest management methods/organic inputs/their effectiveness;
  - Hazelnut machinery.
7. Collaborate with all actors on agroecological research with the special focus on:
  - Residual and multi-residual monitoring of the in-shell hazelnuts, including their environmental aspects;
  - Agroecological pest management in hazelnut orchards (esp. against Brown Marmorated Stink Bug);
  - Comparative performance of the different hazelnut varieties;
  - Environmental and economic calculations (true cost and evaluation of the externalities);
  - Standards and methods of the hazelnut quality determination and their impacts on hazelnut prices.
8. Launch a campaign, to promote a common action against the exploitation of labour, especially children and women, in hazelnut production.

*Nepi, 17 April 2018*

*Elkana / Ciftci Sen - Findik Sen/Biodistretto della Via Amerina e delle Forre*