



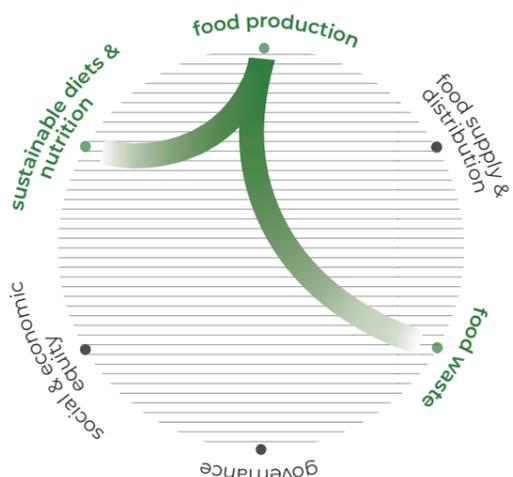
PORTO ALEGRE BRAZIL

Title of Practice

PORTO ALEGRE: A PERI URBAN PROCESSING UNIT TO PROVIDE THE CITY WITH ORGANIC OIL AND BYPRODUCTS

Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Category
FOOD PRODUCTION

Main impacts on other MUFPP categories



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Context

Over the last years, the food production zone of Porto Alegre suffered a steady decline: it is pressured by land appreciation combined with a decrease in the labor workforce moving from agriculture to the construction and trade sectors. Another change is the substitution of fruit cultivation by grain crops, which provide employment and income opportunities to the families from these neighboring communities. The implementation of small food processing units for the transformation of raw grains (peanut meal, soybean, sesame, chia, etc.) could further enhance local entrepreneurship and benefit rural communities. The current practice aims at supporting such processes through a dedicated project, targeting the rural areas of Porto Alegre and Viamao.

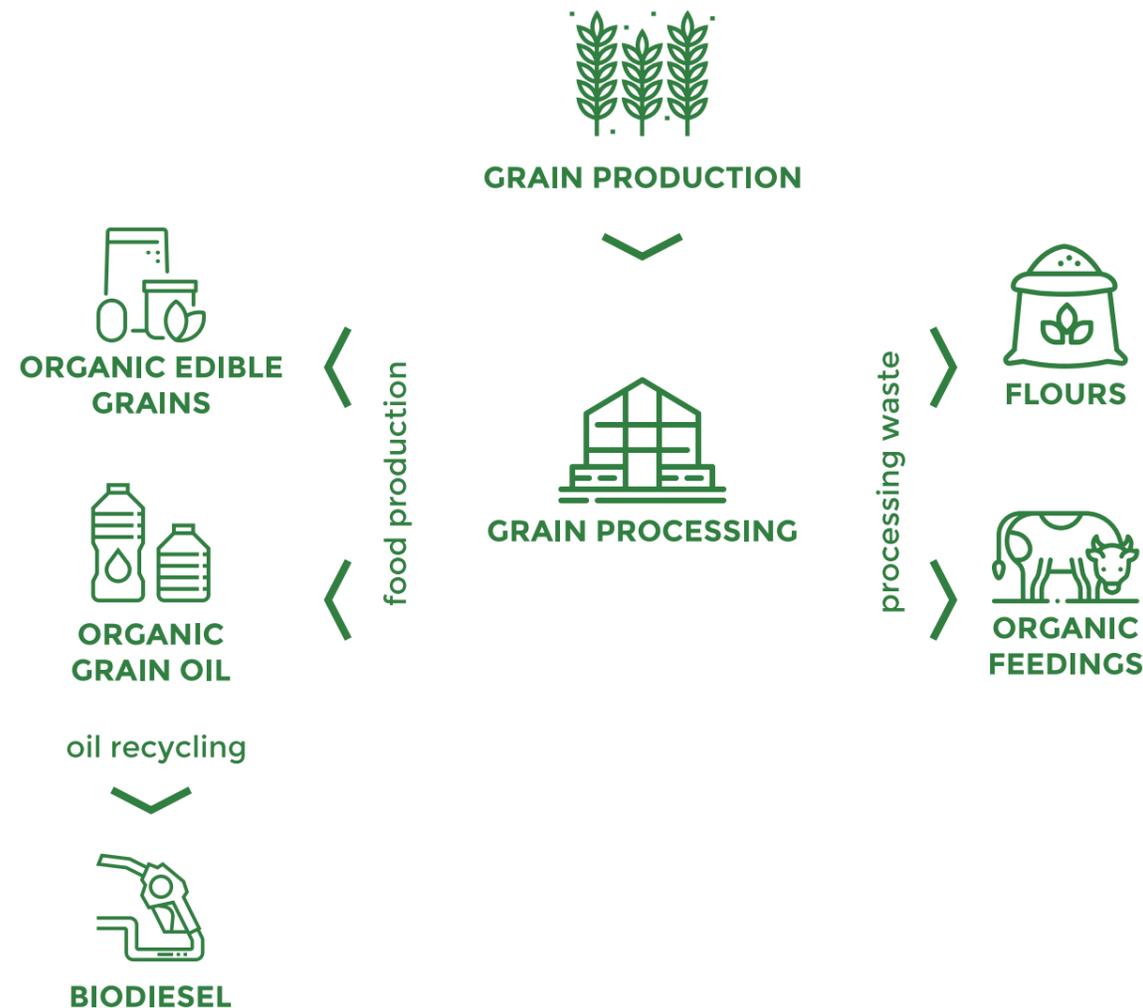
Overview of the food practice

The Collective Agrobusiness for Organic Oil is a civilian initiative, organized by RAMA – the Metropolitan Agroecology Network – with the support of governmental and private actors. The project is designed in eight stages, with the aim of fostering local development, food security and food sovereignty through solidarity economy. Support is given to local fair trade and cooperation in a 50 km area around the city centre, promoting organic food production, processing and selling. The project's first stage takes place in rural properties in Porto Alegre, and members of RAMA are involved in organic grain production for oil extraction, human consumption and animal feeding. The main grains used are soy, corn, peanuts, sunflower, linseed, sesame and pumpkin, from disposal proceedings. The second stage involves a grain processing unit, whose main objective is the production of organic gourmet vegetable-based oil and other by-products. All grains arrive at the processing unit and pass through a weighing, cleaning, drying, classifying and storage process. Then the grains are cold pressed to extract their crude oil, which is packed and stocked. The farmers hand over the grains and withdraw the packed oil, which is ready for selling. All processing costs are paid in oil. The project's third stage leads to a better utilization of the flours from the pressing process, which are distributed in smaller units for cereal bars, rapaduras and the production of baking raw materials. Similarly, the fourth stage is focused on better usage of food waste, which returns to rural properties to produce organic meat, milk and eggs. The fifth and sixth part relate to processing and packing the organic grains for distribution within the local system. These stages are made more efficient by the proximity of the consumer market and by the increasing demand for organic products. The seventh stage, yet to be implemented, envisions olive oil production from RAMA associated olive growers, and the eighth stage will deal with oil recycling and transformation into biodiesel, adopting a systemic approach.

Results and lessons learned

Among the most significant results achieved by the project is an increase in food diversity and biodiversity. In rural areas, maintenance of cultivated croplands and preservation of the rural landscape are important and essential elements of food production around large urban centers such as Porto Alegre. The social impact of such initiatives is also relevant, providing more sustainable diets and consumption of fresh products and universalizing the consumption of organic food. Local producers are also empowered, which results in increased food security and resilience for Porto Alegre. Furthermore, the RAMA network involves traditional communities (indigenous people, quilombolas and traditional fishermen), who are assisted in the production of traditional organic food, safeguarding the biodiversity of the region and protecting endangered areas from real estate speculation.

This project adopts a territorial and systemic approach in leveraging organic production in support of local development. Building on premises of short supply chains and food sovereignty, it shows the potential of local rural actors and civil society to transform the food system with the support of local authorities. Thanks to governmental and private support, the action has the potential to upscale its results, contributing to the creation of a truly sustainable urban food system.



- Municipality of Porto Alegre. Normative Joint Instruction MAPA-MMA N. 17 – May 28th, 2009 (organic sustainable extractivism)