



WildFood

WildFood Project

Eating the wild: Improving the value-chain of Mediterranean Wild Food Products (WFP)

D5.8. Report on the Interim Conference

Lead by: **CTFC in partnership with UNIPD**

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Executive summary

This document aims to provide a brief description of the mid-term conference of the Prima WildFood project. The conference took place on 26th-27th May, in Castelfranco Veneto (Italy) and it was an opportunity to take stock of the project situation, plan the next project activities, as well as host the Policy Forum on certification and labelling of wild food products.

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Summary

1. THE STRUCTURE AND THE OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERIM CONFERENCE	2
2. THE CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS	2
3. THE ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT DURING THE CONFERENCE	3
3.1 <i>First day of the midterm conference: the project results and the next challenges</i>	3
3.2 <i>Second day of the midterm conference: the Policy Forum and research in action.....</i>	5
ANNEX I	6

List of tables

Table 1. Participants of mid-term conference	2
Table 2. Time schedule of the first day of the midterm conference (May 26 th)	3
Table 3. List of WPs presented during the first day of the event	3
Table 4. The 8 innovation actions, the project partner responsible, and the speaker who during the event has introduced these actions	4
Table 5. Time schedule of the second day of the midterm conference (May 27 th).....	5
Table 6. List of presentations carried out during the “Research in action”	5



1. The structure and the objectives of the Interim Conference

The Interim conference of the WildFood project has been held on 26th 27th May, in Castelfranco Veneto (Italy) at Villa Bolasco. The event, organized in the context of WP 5 of the project, has been coordinated by UNIPD team, with the collaboration of all WP leaders. Initially, the conference was initially scheduled for March 2022, but due to COVID-19 restrictions it was postponed to the end of May 2022. The conference aimed to provide a state of the art of the WildFood project, present the main findings reached, as well as to host the policy forum on certification and labelling of Wild Food Products, included in the task 3.2 of the proposal.

As described below, the conference was divided into 2 days, and in each of these days various moments of discussion and interaction were organized to encourage the participation of all project partners and other interested stakeholders. It should be emphasized, in fact, that a large part of the event was broadcast online and all partners, even if not physically present, were able to interact with the rest of the audience. An example of moment of interactions between participants (on-line) and participants (physically present) is reported in Annex I (picture 2).

2. The conference participants

As described in Table 1, more than 20 participants attended both days of the event, although some representatives of the project partners attended the event, in online mode. It should also be noted that some speakers of the Policy Forum, such as Sven Mutke, were invited as guests of the first day (26th May), as possible providers of inputs and suggestions for a correct project implementation. As already mentioned, some parts of the event were broadcast online and therefore, in addition to the project partners, other interested actors (about 10) were able to attend (not as participants, but as only as auditors) to the event.

Table 1. Participants of mid-term conference (a picture of all participants is reported in Annex I)

	Name and Surname	Organization		Name and Surname	Organization
1	Marta Rovira	CTFC	13	Neus Balaguer Vicent	PRODECA
2	José Antonio Bonet	CTFC	14	Nicola Andrighetto	UNIPD
3	Míriam Piqué	CTFC	15	Enrico Vidale	UNIPD
4	Daniel Oliach	CTFC	16	Davide Pettenella	UNIPD
5	Issam Touhami ²	INRGREF	17	Giai Petit	UNIPD
6	Ibtissem Taghouti ²	INRGREF	18	Alessia Sartori ²	UNIPD
7	Mariem Khalfaoui ²	INRGREF	19	Sven Mutke ³	INIA
8	Aloui Jamel	AVFA	20	Bryony Morgan ³	TRAFFIC
9	Inês Conceição	ISA	21	Anton Brenko ^{3 4}	CFRI
10	Anže Japelj	SFI	22	Helena Leonel Ferreira	Student
11	Ana Margarida Pinto da Fonseca	Cooperativa de Usuários do Freixo do Meio	23	Giulia Corradini ^{4 4}	UNIPD
12	Tine Grebenc	SFI			

² Project partners that have attended on line the conference

³ Speakers of the Policy Forum

⁴ Participants that have attended only the second day of the conference



3. The activities carried out during the conference

3.1 First day of the midterm conference: the project results and the next challenges

The first day of the meeting (May 26th, from 2pm to 6:30 pm) was dedicated to the presentation of the main interim results of each WPs of the WildFood project, as well as the analysis of forthcoming tasks (Table 2).

Table 2. Time schedule of the first day of the midterm conference (May 26th)

Time	Activities
12.30 – 1.30	Light lunch
1.30 – 2.00	Arrival and registration of the participants
2.00 – 3.00	WildFood Project - State of the art
3.00 – 4.15	Introduction of the Innovation Actions implemented in the context of the project (event live-streamed)
4.15 – 4.30	Break
4.45 – 5.45	Plan the next step (Interactive part) (CTFC + UNIPD)
5.45 – 6.30	Work café wrap-up (UNIPD + all participants)
From 20.00	Social Dinner

As described in Table 2, after the arrival of the participants and their registration, in the first part of the afternoon each WP leader presented the state of the art of his WP, reporting main results obtained so far, problems encountered during the development of the various deliverables, and the potential political implications derived from the results obtained. The references of each WP and the main contents presented by WP leaders during the conference are summarized in Table 3.

Table 3. List of WPs presented during the first day of the event

WP and titles	WP leaders	Main contents of presentation
WP1 – Diagnosis of the WFP value chain and comparative analysis	UNIPD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main results of the trade and stakeholder analysis (Deliverable 1.1 and 1.2); Definition of the methodology of the comparative analysis that will be utilized in the deliverable D 1.3.
WP2 - Innovation for quality, safety and sustainability in the WFP value chain	CTFC&ISA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of the innovation actions implemented in the context of WP2; The development of proposals for innovative management models of wild foods.
WP3 - Innovative marketing strategies	INRGREF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of the methodology implemented in the workshops included in Task 3.1. and the template for gathering stakeholders' data. Main results of the survey on certification and labelling of wildfood.
WP4 - Innovative integration strategies and adapted business models	SFI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State of the art of workshops and events (task 4.1 and 4.2); Main contents of living lab session
WP5 - Capacity building, communication and dissemination	CTFC&UNIPD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An introduction to the plan for dissemination and exploitation of the project's results; A draft proposal of “<i>success stories to communicate</i>” (Task 5.3)
WP6 - Project management and coordination	CTFC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of the deliverables and milestones

After the presentation of all six WPs, 8 innovation actions, in form of pilot projects,



implemented in the context of WP 2 have been briefly presented (Table 4). These actions aimed to propose innovative techniques for introducing the circularity, low carbon, biodiversity and resource efficiency principles within some specific WFP value-chains⁵.

Table 4. The 8 innovation actions, the project partner responsible, and the speaker who during the event has introduced these actions

Pilot Case	Product	Partner	Speaker
1. Implementing a new production and transformation process for aromatic plants	Rosemary and myrtle	INRGREF	Mariem Khalfaoui
2. Prediction systems for the annual supply of acorn and flour as raw material for human food products	Acorns	ISA	Inês Conceição
3. Establishing mycological parks to assess and control mushrooms collection and guarantee a sustainable mycological use with appropriate mushrooms collection, while integrating social function in this activity (innovation in production and use)	Mushrooms	CTFC	José-Antonio Bonet
4. Quantifying pinecone production, with sensors and drones	Pine nuts	CTFC	Míriam Piqué
5. Participating in development of innovative biological agents in pest control on truffle sites/plantations	Truffles	SFI	Tine Grebenc
6. Preparing of laboratory protocols for certification and identification of truffles	Truffles	SFI	Tine Grebenc
7. Elaborating a production monitoring protocol for truffle	Truffles	UNIPD	Alessia Sartori
8. Implementing some innovation systems for production, transformation and distribution of acorn related products, namely production, transformation, packaging and distribution	Acorns	ISA&HFM	Ana Fonseca

The third part of the first day was totally dedicated to the analysis of the next project activities, clarifying the timeline, identifying possible barriers (and possible solutions) that may emerge during the implementation of these activities. Barriers and possible solutions have been identified by participants during some specific participatory activities, coordinated by UNIPD staff. In detail:

- UNIPD team has introduced the main contents of the training programs, that will be organized in the context of the task 5.2. **Main discussion topics:** language and role of each partner in the training courses organization;
- SFI team has proposed the methodology that will be utilized for the creation of innovative Business Model for the WFP sector, as requested by the task 4.4. **Main discussion topics:** the meaning of innovation in a business model for wild food products;
- PRODECA has introduced the main features of the virtual fair, that will be launched in the context of the task 4.1. **Main discussion topics:** the involvement of private companies in the virtual fair.

⁵ All the description of the innovation actions implemented in the context of WP2 are included in the deliverable 5.7 and available at the following link: <https://wildfood.ctfc.cat/deliverables/>



3.2 Second day of the midterm conference: the Policy Forum and research in action

The second day of the mid-term conference (27th May) included a policy forum on WildFood certifications, and a small event (Research in action), dedicated to present the most research activities carried out by researchers, that are included in the WildFood project network (Table 5).

Table 5. Time schedule of the second day of the midterm conference (May 27th)

Time	Activities
8.30 – 9.00	Registration of participants POLICY FORUM (<i>event live-streamed</i>) <i>Plenary session</i>
9.00 – 10.15	Giulia Corradini - Labels, labeling and certification on wild food Bryony Morgan - FairWild standards. Overview, successful stories and failures: Sven Mutke - Wildfood toward the climate change: new challenges ahead Davide Pettenella - Wildfood on the forest policy in Europe POLICY FORUM
10.15 – 11.20	<i>World Cafè (Interactive part)</i> How to re-define the role of certification of wildfood production in the next EU policies
11.20 – 11.40	Break RESEARCH IN ACTION: new scientific frontiers towards the sector of wilfood products. Presentations from:
11.40 – 13.15	UNIPD (Padova University) CTFC (Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia) CFRI (Croatian Forest Research Institute)
13.15	Lunch

The policy forum (from 9.00 to 11.20) has been devoted to an analysis of the role of labeling, certifications and private brands of wild food products, defining the actions necessary to ensure greater competitiveness, safety and sustainable value chains of wild foods. The policy forum has been divided in two different sessions:

- **The plenary session**, based on the presentations of wildfood experts, aimed to contribute the beginning of a debate to outline the priorities for the adoption of smart labels and / or wild food certifications.
- **The world Cafè** for collecting inputs from all the participants regarding: (i) Opportunities & Barriers behind certifying, labelling and branding wild food, (ii) Particularities of wild food to be considered before defining a new certification scheme (iii) Prioritized actions and policy recommendations.

Main outputs of the policy forum, emerged during both plenary session and world cafè will be summarized in a document, called “*Report on innovative certification and labelling in WFPs sector: Pilot experiences*”, that represent the deliverable 3.4 of WildFood project.

The last part of the event (Research in action) has been dedicated to a presentation of specific findings emerged during scientific research on wildfood value chains, carrying on researchers, included in WildFood project. Below (Table 6) it is reported the name of speakers and the reference of their presentations

Table 6. List of presentations carried out during the “Research in action”

Speaker	Title of presentation
Alessia Sartori (Unipd)	A new and sustainable approach for truffle management
Anton Brenko (CFRI)	Controlled germination and inoculation of <i>Quercus ilex</i> with two species from <i>Tuber</i> genus
Dani Oliach (CTFC)	Main findings from an application of Delphi Method in the market truffle



Annex I



Figure 1. Participants of the conference



Figure 2. Example of interactions among participants





The Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area will devise new R&I approaches to improve water availability and sustainable agriculture production in a region heavily distressed by climate change, urbanisation and population growth.



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