

From Multidisciplinary Knowledge to Territorial Innovation and Capacity Building

The University Farm as a place for research, learning and territorial cooperation

Luigi Ledda · Marche Polytechnic University

MEDDIET Working Group · Ancona, 16 October 2026

1



The agricultural foundation of the Mediterranean Diet

02

A healthy food pattern depends on the land and the people who produce its food.

Crop diversity and soil stewardship

Reliable production under a changing climate

Local supply chains that can use research findings



What the university can bring together

03

Research

Agronomy, food science and environmental
analysis

Education

Students learn from real decisions and
measured outcomes

3

**A useful result is one that a producer can evaluate under real operating
conditions.**



The University Farm as a working setting

04

A place to test questions raised by producers

Field trials make choices visible and outcomes measurable.

Teaching and visits bring researchers and users of the results into the same conversation.

4



Products that make research tangible

05

Quality rooted in research at Agugliano and Gallignano

Extra virgin olive oil and chickpeas

Grains, flours and pasta

Fruit preserves and tomato products

5



A documented Marche value chain

06

San Carlo durum wheat

Grown at the University Farm in Agugliano

Storage and stone milling

Vaccarini and Mulino Tre Ponti near Polverigi

Pasta making

⁶ Spinosi in Campofilone

Spinosi project documented in 2022



An example pilot question for MEDDIET

07

Could more diverse crop rotations improve soil condition while remaining viable for farmers?

Possible comparison

Locally relevant rotation options, including legumes where appropriate

7

Evidence to collect

Crop performance, soil indicators, resource use and farm costs



How knowledge reaches the territory

08

Producers

Identify constraints and judge whether a practice fits the farm

University teams

Design trials, measure results and train students

8

Enterprises and public bodies help turn robust findings into advice, services and decisions.



A possible MEDDIET pilot node

A shared question

Partners select a challenge that matters in more than one territory.

Comparable evidence

Sites agree on essential measures while adapting practices locally.



A concrete question for today's discussion

10

Which agricultural challenge should we test together?

- 1 Identify the producers who would use the answer
- 2 Find two or more interested pilot sites
- 3 Agree on a small set of comparable measures



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11

