

Value chains, sustainability and nutritional transition: a Mediterranean perspective (1800-2000)

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Agricultural intensification and economic shifts in the potato value chain (Portugal, 19th-20th centuries)

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An agricultural value chain can be defined as a series of value adding processes which flow across many companies and creates products or services which are suitable to fulfil the needs of consumers. Being an elaborate process, it incorporates several dimensions of economic (along with political, cultural, and social) relations, such as the strategies developed to expand the production of staple food crops. Under this notion and as a sequence of nodes linked by various kinds of agents, institutions and conventions, a key question about an agricultural value chain is: how does its structure change over time? In face of this context, this paper will analyse the connection between the process of agricultural intensification, starting in mid-19th century, and the expansion of potato cultivation in Portugal, with a particular focus on modifications in the pattern of consumption, also looking to the national and international markets of this period.

Agrifood systems; Nutritional transition; Potatoes; Portuguese agriculture

The role of aromatic and medicinal herbs in food security

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Aromatic and medicinal herbs play an important role in the diet of human societies and, therefore, in food sovereignty and security. This is the case of the Mediterranean diet. Having this in mind, the communication presents research results on the sector of aromatic and medicinal herbs located in different regions of the Portuguese territory. The the role of local development associations and networks in the development of the sector is the focus of the analysis developed. The cultivation of aromatic and medicinal herbs has economic, social, and environmental impacts on the territory. Besides the creation of employment and the possibility of an, principal or complementary, income source, this production provides the improvement of biodiversity and the occupation of rural areas. They are mostly cultivated in small and very small farms, both in developing and developed countries (Kwankhao & Indaratna, 2020; Matthews & Jack, 2019; Schunko, et al, 2019; Unati et al, 2016; Yamoah et al, 2014). Those trends presents many challenges in different dimensions of

business development through the value chain, namely commercialization. This is the reason behind the establishment of connections and the establishment of partnerships with other actors, such as local development associations, and other producers, providing the scale and critical resources towards the success of this initiative

aromatic and medicinal herbs; food security; networks; rural territories

Food regimes at a national scale: a conceptual map

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There is wide consensus on the urgency to transform our current agrifood system into a more sustainable one and fair one. The aim of this paper is to advance the understanding of agrifood systems functioning and the identification of the levers of change that may enable such transformation. To do that, we use food regimes as our main conceptual framework. Food regimes are a prominent approach to study the role of agriculture and food in global capitalism, being broadly used in agrarian change and agrifood studies. Yet, a problematizing of food regimes scale -global- has been identified because of the insufficient attention given to regional, national and local variabilities. The national scale is considered a critical one due to the important role conducted by the state. Based on this, we develop a conceptual map grounded on a literature review through which identified key aspects in the unfolding of food regimes at a national scale. We further combine them with the approaches of the social metabolism and surplus/reproduction. The resulting conceptual map is made up of six layers, encompassing thirty-one elements in total, and linked through six key cross-cutting connections.

agrifood system; food regimes; political economy; transition; sustainability

The drivers of the nutritional transition in Spain

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One of the main characteristics of the modern nutritional transition is the increased intake of protein coming from foods of animal origin. Specifically, the decades after World War II witnessed a strong increase in meat consumption. This phenomenon occurred first in high-income countries and later in developing countries. However, the drivers of the modern nutritional transition are less studied. Some scholars point to demand factors such as growth of income, population and urbanization rates. Others point to supply factors such as the fall in prices of livestock products due to the intensification of the livestock system. Nevertheless, most of the literature does not quantify the role of supply, demand and especially the role of consumer preferences. In this paper, we focus on Spain, a Mediterranean country that culminated the modern nutritional transition during the second half of the 20th century, in order to quantify the role of demand, supply and preferences in the increase in meat consumption in this period.

nutritional transition; food consumption; meat

Sustainability of Food System and Food Value Chain: why history matters?

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Since the end of the 18th century, economic growth and structural changes have intensified agricultural production to respond to population growth, the expansion of industry and the growth of cities, creating continuities and discontinuities in terms of exploitation of resources and environmental impacts. According to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, global demographic growth requires increased food production, with the world population expected to reach 9 billion by 2050. people, making it necessary to increase agricultural production by around 70%. It is a current challenge, but it has been a challenge from always ever since. Climate change and its consequences on the geography of the agroforestry sector are coupled with this challenge. Also, major challenges arise from changes in the economy, environment, lifestyles, global increases in food consumption, from a diminishing production base due to, for example, the loss of arable land. This reality leads to the need to think and discuss a new sustainable food production and consumption model and its framing in a new understanding of food security. Facing these challenges, what are the dimensions to consider regarding sustainability? The reflexive and critical analysis of this challenge in the context of sustainable development can be strengthened by introducing a long-term approach to the relations

Value Chain; Food Sytem; Sustainability; History