Uncertainty challenges and generational renewal for Mediterranean pastoralism

Michele NORI, European University Institute

PACTORES.eu

Photo credit project PASTRES
Mediterranean pastoralism

- Pastoralism - extensive livestock rearing as part of the wider agrarian world, often confined in areas - remote, dry, rocky mountainous - unfeasible for intensive crop farming

- Mediterranean region - Asymmetric endowment

Climate change exposure

[Map of Mediterranean region showing land use distribution]
A region of diversities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Southern Europe</th>
<th>Magehr and Mashreq</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34.4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>average land % suitable for crop prod</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,3%</td>
<td>Demographic- fertility rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>Agric. employment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The pastoral paradox

• All over the Mediterranean, pastoralism is increasingly appreciated in society for
  • the quality of its products -
    • animal proteins, organic, rich, healthy, nutriceutic, ...
  • the relevance of its socio-ecosystem services -
    • biodiversity, animal welfare, soil-water, carbon stock, fire prevention, ...
    • employment and revenue in difficult terrains, landscape, traditions, ...
Unfortunately this **growing societal appreciation** does not seem to translate into effective improvements for this sector and its operators. This is reflected into a **decreasing numbers** of pastoral flocks, farms and people.

This class explores this paradox: the triggers and drivers as well as the implications and impacts of recent processes in Mediterranean pastoralism.
Reshaping the agrarian world: Modernization & Globalisation

• Incorporation of pastoral economies into market dynamics
• Driven by Market forces and supported by Policy
• Competition on global markets
• Focus on investments, large production scale
• Uncertainty and dependency on markets and bureaucracy

• Specific impact on pastoral systems
Implications 1 - dependency

• Rural producers increasingly dependent on market exchanges and Policy making for their outputs and also increasingly for their production inputs

• Decreasing autonomy, interest and gains for family farms / smallholders

• Increasing productivity at the expense of quality
Policy uncertainties

• Consistent **subsidy systems** to support production modernization and market integration - huge amounts of public funds

• The **Livestock Revolution** and the demand for animal proteins

• the **Common Agricultural Policy** in the EU in support of large producers and land holders; more recent multifunctionalism and ecosystem services

• Land privatization, irrigation schemes, subsidies on forage and meat price in the Maghreb (i.e. **Plan Maroc Vert**; **mobilité inversée**)
Market uncertainties

Volatility of the price of sheep milk in Sardinia (€/liter)

Terms of trade between price of lamb and barley in the West Bank, Palestine (ICRC, 2008)
Implications 2 - polarisation

• Polarization between higher-potential and ‘marginal’ territories
• In bio-physical, geographical, geo-political as well as in socio-economic terms

• Overall economic and social costs associated to the loss of productive activities, income and employment opportunities, land abandonment, ageing of rural communities, loss of cultural capitals

• Ecological costs - increasing evidence that the abandonment of agricultural practices in these areas carries substantial risks and hazards, including flooding, erosion, landslides, wildfires, including the loss of local knowledge and traditional practices, crucial components of local resilience capacities
Implications 3 - restructuring

• Restructuring of the production system,
  Less farms with larger flocks

• of the household economy and of the labour regimes
  from family to salaried
  from local to foreign

• EU and Maghreb and Mashreq, opposite trends but similar impacts
Trends in sheep and goat farms in Greece, Spain and Italy (1990-2016) (Farinella, 2020)
Evolution of the number and size of flocks in the sheep meat industry in France (1988-2010) (IDELE, 2010)
• “20 years ago with a flock half size of the present one we had a decent life and we could even make savings and investments. Now with a double-sized flock, it is difficult to make ends meet by the end of the year” (Nori 2017:12).

• “today you need an office to run a farm” (Nori, 2020)

• «la brebis mange sa sœur» (Chattou, 2016:141).

• “les bons bergers ils sont tous partis chez vous” (Nori, 2017a:11)
Pastoral adaptations

• Less operators with more animals
Decreasing farms
Abandonment and ageing
Problems of generational renewal

• Shifts in production systems
Small / large ruminants, dairy or meat
Technology, animal feed, genetics

• Migrant labour force
Local, regional, international,

• Shepherding schools
In some countries
Farmers by age (%) in EU-28
Trend for average sheep farm size
Shift in livestock production systems

In mountainous areas of Med Europe shift to beef / cattle
Shift in the workforce

Foreign workers in Italian agriculture (years 2000-2013)
pastoral migrants

the long transhumance of Sardinians
Historical pastoral migrations in the Mediterranean
Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development

IMISCOE Short Reader

Series: IMISCOE Research Series

- This open access short reader analyses contemporary rural migrations in a very accessible way.
- Describes the reconfiguration of agriculture systems and rural landscapes following intense immigration.
- Addresses non-intensive agricultural systems and more marginal rural settings.
- Examines the relevance of migrant communities to EU agro-pastoralism.

This open access short reader looks into the dynamics which have reshaped rural development and human landscapes in European agriculture and the role of immigrant people. Within this framework it analyses contemporary rural migrations and the emergence of immigrants in relation to the incorporation of agrarian systems into global markets, the European agricultural governance (CAP), and the struggle of local territories as differentiated practices in constant

# Pastoral schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Centre</th>
<th>Training</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>France</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SupAGRO, Montpellier, Provence</td>
<td>Professional agricultural certificate qualified worker for sheep meat flocks</td>
<td>Since 1936 Duration 12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reinach, La Motte Servolex, Rhône-Alpes</td>
<td>Multifunctional shepherding</td>
<td>Since 2004 Duration 6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFPPA, Ariège- Pyrénées</td>
<td>Sheep and cattle dairy production, Transhumant shepherding</td>
<td>Since 2006 Duration 6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Le Centre d’exploitation et d’expérimentation ovine, Digne</td>
<td>Qualified worker for sheep meat flocks, fodder crops and dairy animals with farm cheese processing</td>
<td>Since 1999 Duration 6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spain</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escuela de pastoreo de Artzain en Gomiztegui, Baqsue country</td>
<td>Specialised in breeding the local Latxa sheep breed, and in the production of the Idizabal cheese</td>
<td>Since 1997 Duration 5 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRIPIA, Escola de pastores, Catalunya</td>
<td>Agro-ecological model</td>
<td>Since 2009 Duration 5 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campo Adentro, Picos de Europa, Asturias</td>
<td>Agro-ecological model, Sperimental farm and cheese processing site</td>
<td>Since 2004; recently expanded to Mallorca and Sierra Norte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escuela de pastores, Andalucia</td>
<td>Focus on local breeds; Future shepherds and stockbreeders; Training of trainers and tutors</td>
<td>shifting location Duration 4 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escueles de pastores en Extremadura</td>
<td>Cooprado and Castuera centre; Professional qualified worker for sheep production and processing</td>
<td>Since 2010 Duration 4 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Morocco, Meknes</strong></td>
<td>ANEM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key messages:

- Overall restructuring of the agrarian world pushed by market and policy forces
- Modernization, globalisation, polarisation
- Huge amounts of public funds with limited impacts on societal concerns

- Specific impacts in pastoral territories and systems
- Pastoral responses and adaptations
- Problems of generational renewal
Translate pastoral values into practice:

• Need for a comprehensive policy framework
• that integrates food production and environmental management with rural development, trade, labour market, education, migration
• Fairer market system / value chain governance that accounts for social and ecological ‘externalities’
• Subsidy systems that support smallholders in difficult areas and related s-e services
• Thank you for your attention

• All questions and suggestions welcome

• Please let us know the situation in your country
  •  
  •  michele.nori@eui.eu