



Contribution from Porrúa



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN PORRUA : POSITIONS AND PROPOSALS.

THE SITUATION OF THE AGRICULTURE IN PORRUA

The VILLAGE OF PORRUA always has been characterised by the importance of the agriculture in the local economy, and yet today continues being this activity our principal source of wealth, but unfortunately the future isn't very optimistic and few people could be occupied in this economic sector.

We believe that the situation of the sustainable agriculture in our village can be analyzed with the following bases:

- 1- THE AGRICULTURE AS SOURCE OF WEALTH.
THE DISCUSSION OF THE WELFARE.

Our entry as country in the European Community in 1986 has supposed important and irrevocable changes in our way of life, we think that have existed positive effects in the improvement of our developments, especially in the modernization of the production and in the diversification of the traditional activities with support of the rural tourism, but too our actual situation is not enough very good and the future is uncertain.

Actually we believe that we can not live so dependent of the administrative decisions of the European funds as in the agriculture is characteristic, specially if those which take the decisions are so far from us and when exist so many political middlemen that don't know our daily problems and have other interest.

We think that it's necessary a serious discussion on the position of the agriculture in the rural development, because not alone we can speak of production and agricultural markets, we need a discussion about our local culture or our environment.

In fact we think that our welfare future must depend on our decisions and on our work and collective effort, in a continuous and reflexive discussion on our possibilities and on as covering better our needs.

- 2- THE RURAL CULTURE AS BASE OF THE DEVELOPMENT.

PORRUA is a good example of this discussion because we think nothing can be done from the urban centers, our opinion is that the local territory can not be converted with field houses for

the weekend of the cities inhabitants.

Today with the possibilities that offer us the new technologies of informations the options are many different, therefore our principal task is the recovery of the own culture, that is to say our "know-how" of the rural life. We must break with the topic that the rural culture is an inferior culture to the urban culture, we don't have large museums and publicity spaces in the mass-media but our local culture can't be slighted like has occurred in past times.

This is labor that we are developing in the Village of Porrua with the cultural association of LLACfN through the promotion of a museum ethnographic in which our neighbours can deposit old objects that give them more value and provoke ourselves for showing to other people. This project is not only limited in the rehabilitation of the old houses because we intended to widen to other local spaces with great cultural interest (forests, rivers, mountain routes, etc).

- 3- THE TRANSFORMATION PROCESS AND / OF THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

We we are convinced that all this actions will not be possible if we haven't a sustainable development of the agriculture, no trying with the European helps to maintaining a minimal profitability but yes seeking the welfare future of our neighbors in the generation of value of our agricultural resources.

And it has happened and we have a local cheese and eider production . Not it's considered to produce milk or apples the important is know and show our form of these products transformation. We are really convinced that all our efforts are going to be insufficient but we think is necessary to change and to maintain to the new generations in a basic welfare that avoid the lost and old of population.

An example of this is the process we are living in the transformation of the agricultural properties through the "parceling concentration" of the properties that surround the village. Actually it is a task very difficult to convince the owners of the needs having better properties for cultivate but if the process is explained on the need by following maintaining the activity of our farmers and cattlemen all people believe that will be benefitted. Today there are many small properties and it is a special difficult for the agriculture development and alone the concentration can suppose an alternative to improve.

These actions must be get the improvement of agriculture work and too they should improve the quality of our immediate environment, promoting a sustainable conservation.. In fact we believe this project is a problem of fail in the Village because we don't like to break with our tradition but of promoting an improvement of the rural life.

- 4- THE TRADITION AS ALTERNATIVE OF FUTURE.

Every year ago the agricultural activity in PORRUA has been characterized by the translation (transhumancia) of the cattle from the nearby lands in the winter toward the mountains in the summer what was originating in the familiar life of the farmers a continuous movement of their housing.

The propertie in the mountain lands are common and this situation originate a original way of

social relationships, based on the common work and in the participation as fundamental value. Jet today we have community work where the neighbors participate.

It is significative that with the development of the emigration appeared in our old society a certain class differences with the farmer condition and that today it seems that the urban culture also imposes this class con s sideriti on s to the rural culture and we believe that our better value is the importance of our traditions.

PROPOSALS OF FUTURE

- We believe in fact that we can not considered the problems of rural environment in a sectorial discussion we need emphasized the global position of the agriculture values.
- We believe that our welfare future must be based on a participative culture with programmed activities and contmued in the time, where our greater persons will be the principal participants by their experience and work.
- We believe that the new tehнологies of the information open us a important alternative to improve our position in the global society, the problems of the infrastructures can deal surpassed by this way.
- We think in fact the solutions of our problems there are solutions need a long and continued process of common work to obtaine results..
- We think by finishing that our duty is to collaborate with ail political institutions but in equality conditions equality in the decisions that must be taken.