



SLOW FOOD'S POSITION ON PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEMS

Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) are consolidated guarantee systems whose roots lie deeply in the concept of local food networks. PGS are grassroots initiative of certification that do not involve external stakeholders, but rather reinforce the relationships between people already on a territory, close to production places. In 2018, Slow Food decided to test a Participatory Guarantee Systems initiative, starting from the Presidia project.

The feedbacks have been extremely positive¹, also due to the presence of an essential social component already embedded in Slow Food projects, and in the Presidia project in particular. Some strong points of Participatory Guarantee Systems are:

- The participatory approach;
- A horizontal management of the mechanism, without hierarchical relationships among actors;
- A shared vision and responsibility among stakeholders concerning quality, transparency and trust building.

After a first test period on the Presidia project, today Slow Food wants to implement this system extensively on territories and on different projects, going gradually from a status of self-certification to a participatory system internationally recognized. The application of PGS as a tool for Slow Food's projects certification will allow to increase their credibility, without additional costs and bureaucracy.

Slow Food intends to keep on working on the adoption of this system, acknowledging the contribution that such tool could give to the principal areas of interest of the association²:

- Defend BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY, providing a system that guarantees projects/ methodologies quality and creating spaces for dialogue among the actors on territories;
- EDUCATE, INSPIRE and MOBILIZE PEOPLE, through the involvement of subjects that would not normally being able to follow a production process and by creating moments for sharing knowledge and good practices;
- INFLUENCE POLICIES in the PUBLIC and PRIVATE SECTOR, by driving the attention on the necessity of recognizing to the PGS initiatives an equivalent status as the third-party certifications, which are already showing their limits.

The objective of Slow Food today is to gain a deeper knowledge of this methodology and start a more systematic application on territories.

¹As reported in the two case studies written during the pilot test: *Introduction of Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) in the Slow Food Presidia project and Slow Food-IFAD 2000001632, Empowering Indigenous Youth and their Communities to Defend and Promote their Food Heritage - Report of the case-study on the Participatory Guarantee System*

²[Slow Food Call to Action](#)