

## PARTICIPATORY APPROACH IN SÍTIO DE MONFURADO

From the very beginning, the team for the HNV-Link project in the Portuguese Learning Area (LA) of Sítio de Monfurado has adopted a participatory approach in implementing the project. The team is based in the University of Évora, and it has a long history with various actors from the LA, including: farmers, local public administration, producer associations and local action groups. These relationships result mainly from previous research projects and from involvement in local activities.



For the team, the participatory approach means an active involvement of different stakeholders in the processes of gathering information, discussing, sharing and disseminating knowledge and practices regarding the HNV agro-silvo-pastoral system of Montado. The team used several ways of engaging local actors through the project implementation: interviews, formal and informal bilateral meetings with public administration, farmers and farmer representatives, focus groups, and workshops. With prior expertise and

experience in multi-actor processes, the team made sure that concerns, aspirations and perspectives of the actors was given a prominent role in all these events.

The team of Sítio de Monfurado has greatly benefited from the initiative called Tertúlia do Montado. It was initiated by ICAAM/University of Évora in April 2016 with an objective of establishing a regular and structured dialogue between researchers, land owners, land managers, public administration and the private sector towards the sustainable development of the agro-silvo-pastoral Montado system. So far, the group has held fourteen sessions. The project team integrated its activities into the programme and process of this initiative.

### WHO IS INVOLVED?

Already from the project application stage, the HNV-Link team consulted the key stakeholders in the Sítio de Monfurado (such as the regional direction of Agriculture, DRAPAL; the municipality of Montemor-o-Novo and the Regional Coordination Commission, CCDRA) on the design of the HNV-Link project. As the project evolved, other relevant actors became involved in discussions and participation in the project's many activities. New actors include: many local farmers, land managers, and land owners of montado farmlands; local development groups and associations (LAGS); the Institute for nature conservation and forests (ICNF); the Cabinet for planning and policy making (GPP) of the Ministry of Agriculture; and the National Rural Network.



## ACTIVITIES

The main participatory activities in the LA Sítio de Monfurado under HNV-Link focused on the co-creation and validation of the HNV Vision for the Sítio de Monfurado, followed by an HNV innovation assessment. This process enabled the identification of the main challenges experienced by different stakeholders on the road to attaining the jointly agreed vision and, therefore, also aided in identifying the main innovation gaps in the area. The formal involvement with other HNV-Link LAs for exchanges of innovative approaches to address the LA innovation gaps was initiated at the Innovation Fair in October 2017 in Montemor-o-Novo. The process continues with several cross visits by the team and the key actors.

**Table 1: List of participatory events in LA Sítio de Monfurado, Portugal (up to April 2018)**

Activity	Number of participants	Date
Interviews with key stakeholders	15	Jan-Mar 2017
Sítio de Monfurado Innovation Seminar	25	June 2017
Bilateral meetings with Cabinet for planning and policy making (GPP)	5	Sept 2017
Tertúlia do Montado – Agro-environmental measures for the Agro-silvo-pastoral Montado (with the participation of HNV-Link)	27	Sept 2017
Innovation Fair (included in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> network meeting of HNV-Link)	45	Oct 2017
Bilateral meetings with Cabinet for planning and policy making (GPP)	4	Nov 2017
Tertúlia do Montado - Agro-environmental measures for the Agro-silvo-pastoral Montado II (with the collaboration of HNV-Link)	30	Nov 2017
Tertulia do Montado - Montados' health: problems and management practices (part I)	29	Nov 2017
Tertulia do Montado - Montados' health: problems and management practices (part II)	25	February 2018
Tertulia do Montado - Climate change scenarios and management practices adaptation in Montados	30	March 2018
Training week – Territorial Game (Divercrop project, with the collaboration of HNV-Link)	25	April 2018
Participation on the “Territorios Pastoreados” and cross visit of the LA La Vera (Spain)	5 participants from SM LA	April 2018

## Links

### Innovations seminar report (national language)

[http://www.hnmlink.eu/download/PO\\_NationalLanguageReport\\_innovationseminar\\_Monfurado.pdf](http://www.hnmlink.eu/download/PO_NationalLanguageReport_innovationseminar_Monfurado.pdf)

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