



Huertas Life Km0 Newsletter

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Implementation actions for the project Huertas Life Km0



The km0 Agricultural School, in full operation

The September 22 began in the Torre de Santa Engracia the second phase of the formation of the km0 Agricultural School, which ends on December 23, in which 37 students participated. The program has had more than 250 hours of theoretical and practical learning, divided into the following topics: administration and management, agronomy, production and marketing as well as several sessions on cooperative and collective entrepreneurship, designed to train future farmers in the practice of agroecology and business methods.

From this point, students have to submit a business plan for what will have 100 hours of personal attention both at the stage of development of their own viability plan and the commissioning of agricultural activity.

Zero Plot: experimental model Huertas Life Network km0

The City of Zaragoza, after granting Huertas km0 Life Project, selected from among the plots of his property which belongs to the Torre de Santa Engracia, in the neighborhood of Movera, considered the most appropriate for developing practices Agricultural College and put an experimental model for the whole orchard Red km0 up.



During the month of August held its conditioning, according to two aspects: the adequacy of available space and preparing the ground for organic growing. First we proceeded to clean the plot of debris and organic waste; became a harvest, taking the vegetation cover that had grown, and the different sectors and then proceed to prepare the land for cultivation were labeled. Finally, in the second half of August began planting the different vegetable species, which has worked in the practical training of the School.

The plot is registered in the Aragonese Ecological Agriculture Committee and she has devoted more than 15% of the land to the enhancement of biodiversity. Also different trials have begun recovery traditional varieties.



Biodiversity inventory in Plot 0

Agroecology pursue work in the ecosystem with little disturbance as possible, seeking to maintain an equilibrium which in turn affects the reduction of pests.

In order to evaluate the evolution of biodiversity Lot 0 and keep track of it, from the practice of organic farming, they made an initial “snapshot” of the state of the Zero Lot that allowed us to identify up 123 taxa existing fauna and flora; and is conducting a follow-on which to assess these developments. On the other hand, among some of the measures proposed to promote biodiversity are to maintain and improve peripheral hedges, creating a pond or small wetland, low walls for reptiles, amphibians and micro-mammals is proposed, as well as booking fixed and rotary areas for biodiversity.



Huertas Network km0: preparation of land bank

One objective of Life Project is that at the end thereof has created a network of Huertas Km0 with at least 25 plots of organic production proximity that make up a total of 70 ha. One such is the experimental plots Plot 0 located at the Torre de Santa Engracia.



In order that future farmers from the Agricultural School km0 can dispose of farmland, the City of Zaragoza, as a promoter of the Project, has taken steps to establish a Land Bank, where farmland owners irrigation may register them, so they are leased for a minimum period of five years. The role of the City Council will be to act as intermediary between landowners and interested persons professionally to garden or ecological fruit growing.

Currently sent information to the mayors of rural districts, irrigation unions and different sectors involved are visiting the plots of those who have indicated their interest in participating and are studying the legal formula for the development of this base data and brokerage.

The analysis of the carbon footprint

Since one of the commitments of the project is the reduction of CO2 emissions, therefore the choice of cropping pattern, as derived from the decline of food transport, the Department of Economic Analysis, Faculty of Economics, University of Zaragoza, commissioned by the Agency for Environment and Sustainability of Zaragoza City Council has prepared a valuation model and quantification of CO2 to allow go by monitoring emissions from the different activities of the project and the carbon footprint performance of the plot km0.

Also is conducting a study of the carbon footprint caused by the current model of food supply to the city, to be able to assess the decrease produced after the commissioning of Huertas km0 Network.

The preferences of the population in food

To assess the impact of this project on citizenship is important to know the baseline. With this goal has started conducting 700 personal surveys through 25 questions, allow the perceptions of the knowledge of the orchard and preferences or difficulties of the population to the consumption of horticultural products. The results also allow direct the actions of information and awareness and help in responding to perceived difficulties.



Awareness Activities

Start of visits to the orchard with school groups

More than 600 students from 14 schools taking part this year in visits to the garden of Zaragoza. Visits to these spaces were opened on November 17, although most of them take place in the spring. Its aim is to acquaint students with the agricultural spaces around Zaragoza and different cultures, the fate of these products and the origin of those who are part of their diet and the implications of this model for our health, the local economy and the environment. Business areas are located in the vicinity of Juslibol and Las Fuentes, although the program envisages similar visits in neighborhoods like Kennels and Movera.



Monitoring and promotion of Life projects

Evaluation meetings and balance

The last October 25 and November 5 meeting each track projects Huertas Life and Life Natural km0 Zaragoza, in the Documentation Centre of Water and Environmental Center held Ebro.



The City of Zaragoza in 2014 with CONAMA Life Projects

Between 24 and 27 November the National Environment Conference (CONAMA 2014), attended a representation of the City of Zaragoza with a stand for submitting projects Huertas km0 Life and Life Zaragoza was held at the Palacio de Congresos de Madrid Natural. Information, activities and developments that were generated in this forum will be the subject of a forthcoming informative newsletter.

Puedes encontrar más información acerca del proyecto Life Zaragoza Natural en la web municipal y seguirnos en las siguientes plataformas y redes sociales:

<http://www.zaragoza.es/ciudad/medioambiente/huertaskm0/>

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