

## Submitted Abstract

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## Abstract

Rural mountain communities face many challenges, such as depopulation and lack of social cohesion, touristification and loss of competitiveness in a global market; social innovation is one of the most powerful tools to address them. A key resource for overcoming these challenges is the community's own agri-food resources. In our work, located in the Alpujarra of Granada, we are carrying out in-depth work on local varieties in their double dimension: botanical and social. In our work, located in the Alpujarra of Granada, we are carrying out in-depth work on local varieties in their double dimension: botanical and social. In this second dimension, we start from the idea of agrobiodiversity as a basis for food sovereignty and sustainable development; and our aim is to find answers to overcome the difficulties mentioned above through it. Firstly, we have carried out a review of projects in Europe for agro-food development through Alternative Food Networks (AFN) to discover their success factors and transferability to the Alpujarra community. Moreover, we are implementing a programme of interviews with farmers, traders, hoteliers, AFN members and experts to assess the possibilities of implementing such an initiative. In addition, we have designed a social media dissemination plan and a series of participatory meetings to help create a resilient community. With this strategy we want to provide the population with a series of knowledge and tools so that they can develop new ways of production and commercialisation under the principles of the conservation of agrobiodiversity and the promotion of associative and local production and consumption. This work is part of Smart EcoMountains, the Mountain Thematic Center of LifeWatch-ERIC.