

BOND REPOSITORY OF COLLECTIVE ACTION

SPAIN: Land Banks (Bancos de Tierras)

The aim of the BOND Repository is to share real-life solutions of farmers' and land managers' capacity to develop collective activities and participate in networks involving a wide range of actors. The Repository contains 20 in-depth case studies emerging from the BOND Project, and in addition provides a store-and-share for other initiatives and projects to upload their success stories on an on-going basis.

The Repository is based on EU 'Practice Abstracts' that provide a common format to characterise a project. This makes it possible for readers to contact the project partners and enables the dissemination of project results.

The language is English apart from the project title and abstract.

This Table aims to provide basic information about the organisation or initiative as a whole.

| | |
|---|--|
| Title (in native language) | Bancos de Tierras |
| Title (in English) | Land Banks |
| Editor's name and contact details (address, telephone, email) | Juan Clemente COAGCV Plaza Pascual Carrión 4, 46340 Requena (Spain) 0034 674 262 988 tecnicovalencia@cogcv.org |
| Coordinator name and contact details | Jose Vicente Ubeda Arévalo jv.ubeda@dival.es Tel. 96.388.30.66 Servicio de Medio Ambiente Diputación de Valencia Avda. Dr. Peset Aleixandre, 63 46009 Valencia, Spain Land Bank of La Pobla de Vallbona: Calle Colon 93, 46185 La Pobla de Vallbona. mediambient@lapobladevallbona.es |
| Partners' names and contact details | Provincial Council of Valencia. Town Councils attached to the Land Bank programme (the contact details of each Town Hall are public and can be found at http://www.dival.es/va/content/entitats-locales). |
| Start date | January 2015 (some towns started at 2010, La Pobla de Vallbona started in November 2016) |
| Main | Access to land |

| | |
|---|--|
| sectors/focus | |
| Type of organisation (eg coop, network) | Informal network comprising public administrations (as intermediaries), individuals who have land and those who want land. |
| Number of members | Approx 40 municipalities in Valencia Province (to date), La Pobla de Vallbona has 72 people in the project) |
| Type of members | Local and provincial administrations, land owners and land workers. |
| Operating level (local, regional, national etc) | Local and provincial (Valencia) |
| Funding sources | Budget of the Provincial Council of Valencia |
| Total budget | 30.000 € (in some cases local administration also contributes) |
| Objectives of the initiative | Fight against the abandonment of agricultural land. Create resources against the abandonment of land with capacity for agricultural use. Avoid environmental impacts derived from the abandonment of land (risk of fire, risk of environmental degradation, proliferation of pests, etc.). |
| Description of main activities | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Provide brochures and informative posters to Town Councils for the dissemination of Land Banks. 2) Provide a computer web platform to support the municipalities for the management of Land Banks. 3) Create of a working group formed by the municipalities that voluntarily wish to participate, to deal with the different issues related to the development of the Land Bank programme. 4) Provide technical assistance and training to municipalities on Land Banks and the web platform. 5) Organise a day on the Land Banks in the province of Valencia. 6) Disseminate Land Banks in the province of Valencia in different local, regional and state forums. For example, presentation of technical communications in the National Congress of the Environment (CONAMA). |
| Website | http://www.dival.es/medio-ambiente/content/portada-bancs-de-terres |
| Links to other websites if appropriate | http://bancdeterres.dival.es/ http://webs.lapobladevallbona.es/bancdeterres/ |
| Tick if audiovisual material provided | http://www.dival.es/va/medio-ambiente/content/video-informacio-sobre-banc-de-terres https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQqpxbaH3-0 https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xAaElGcUxryuQUxQ2Ae8MAmH4AgPLMWi/ |

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| | view https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkFJnW6q30 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XMKP_L3S-Rc https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdS_DFIH9u4 |
| Tick if project documents provided | http://www.dival.es/medio-ambiente/content/portada-bancs-de-terres |

PRACTICE ABSTRACT 1

This summary should be as interesting as possible for farmers and other practitioners, using easy understandable language.

(Please repeat this template for each project or subproject that you would like to record)

| Short title in English | Land Banks |
|---|--|
| <p>Short summary for practitioners in English on the (final or expected) outcomes (1000-1500 characters, word count – no spaces). This summary should at least contain the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Main results/outcomes of the activity (expected or final) Include successes such as impact (on policy/productivity/land management etc), effectiveness (have objectives been achieved?), sustainability (economic and environmental), and transferability (can it be adapted and adopted elsewhere?) – The main practical recommendation(s): including both entrepreneurial elements related to cost, productivity etc as well as how any challenges have been overcome. | <p>Whereas a few decades ago 20% of the country’s workforce used to work on the land, this figure has dropped to 5%, as it has become less viable to make a income from the land. Therefore land abandonment and its degradation – including fire risk - has become a problem. This alliance comprises local and provincial government in Valencia who act as intermediaries between owners of abandoned land and people who want to work the land. Almost a match making system, a website displays available land, and the needs and desires of both the owner and the potential tenant are considered for compatibility. It is up to the owner and tenant to then develop a contract, over the duration of the rental agreement and how and whether the owner requires reimbursement. This could take the form of profit share, produce share, a rental payment, or simply a goodwill gesture. From its inception 3 years ago, this initiative has grown to include 40 municipal councils who have signed up to the scheme, and 35 contracts have been made. Though the average size of the parcel is half a hectare, still this scheme benefits the environment as well as creating jobs and income, and strengthening community cohesion. The land owners tend to be retired farmers, and as one remarked “I am much happier now to see my land being cultivated again.” The presence of the Council engenders trust. Challenges encountered so far include convincing elderly land owners to share the land which they have been for a long time attached to, and mediating conflicts. Further, land is more attractive to tenants if it is gravity irrigated than dependent on more costly groundwater pumping.</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>Key recommendations and criteria for success are the appropriate level of management by government – to avoid overcontrol, and also to avoid future conflicts by ensuring good matchmaking between owner and tenant from the beginning.</p> |
| <p>Short title in native language</p> | <p>Bancos de Tierras</p> |
| <p>Short summary for practitioners in native language <i>(can be the language of the coordinator / one of the partners)</i></p> | <p>Hace algunas décadas el 20% de la mano de obra del país solía trabajar en la tierra, en la actualidad esta cifra ha disminuido al 5%, ya que se ha vuelto menos viable obtener un ingreso de la agricultura. Por lo tanto, el abandono de la tierra y su degradación, incluyendo el riesgo de incendio, se han convertido en un problema. Esta alianza comprende a gobiernos locales y provincial de Valencia que actúan como intermediarios entre los propietarios de tierras abandonadas y las personas que quieren trabajar la tierra. Supone un sistema de emparejamiento, donde un sitio web muestra el terreno disponible, y las necesidades y deseos, tanto de propietario como de posibles inquilinos, para encontrar la compatibilidad entre ambas partes. Depende de propietario e inquilino el desarrollar un contrato, su vigencia, y el tipo de intercambio económico si fuese el caso. Pudiendo tomar la forma de participación en los beneficios, pago de alquiler o simplemente cesión.</p> <p>Desde su inicio hace 3 años, esta iniciativa ha crecido hasta incluir 40 consejos municipales que se han inscrito en el plan, y se han realizado 35 contratos. Aunque el tamaño promedio de la parcela es de media hectárea, este sistema beneficia al medio ambiente, al mismo tiempo que genera empleo e ingresos, y fortalece la cohesión de la comunidad. Los propietarios de la tierra tienden a ser agricultores retirados, y como uno de ellos comentó: "Ahora estoy más feliz de ver que mi tierra vuelva a ser cultivada". La presencia de la administración genera confianza. Los desafíos encontrados hasta el</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>momento incluyen convencer a propietarios de parcelas de mayor tamaño para que compartan la tierra a la que han estado durante mucho tiempo apegados. Además, la tierra es más atractiva para los inquilinos si se riega por gravedad que aquellas que dependen del bombeo de agua subterránea, que resulta más costoso.</p> <p>Las recomendaciones clave y los criterios para el éxito son el nivel apropiado de interlocución y acompañamiento por parte de la administración local, para evitar el exceso de control y también para evitar futuros conflictos al asegurar un buen emparejamiento entre propietario e inquilino desde el principio.</p> |
|--|--|