



Seeds

EARTH MACHINE (Terramacchina) - DVD

Country: Italy, Year: 2011

Title

Length: 66', Genre: Documentary

Director and subject : Daniele Di Domenico, Production: CIREA, University of Parma

Language: Italian, Subtitles: English

Description

Terramacchina (Earthmachine) is a journey through the province of Parma, usually considered the core of the Italian Food Valley. The documentary comes from a reflection on the sustainability concept applied to the food farming system, based on certified and qualitatively excellent productions which deeply characterize the territory and contribute to give it the form and the identity as "Food Valley". At the centre of the story, there is the territory of Parma and the Po Valley, characterized by a strong commitment to excellence in food production. The background is the global socio-economical context, recently affected by epochal changes.

The analysis starts from the agricultural revolution of the late '800, up to now: during this time, in fact, several critical issues, not only environmental but also social and economical, are emerged. **Terramacchina** dealt with important topics of great interest; among them, the use of water, the soil consumption, the quality and characteristics of food products. So, the viewer's attention is brought to some examples relating to the use of land and its resources.

The documentary narrative thread is a child, Phoebe, the symbol of new generations, through which the story opens even to fantasy. The contributes of experts, enriched with images from the territory and animation clips, contribute to highlight some of the imbalance effects, caused by the gasping and continuous search to increase production in all the agri-food chain. The risk related to these dynamics leads to foreshadow a loss of quality both for products and for the environment, that could undermine the system from an economical and social point of view.

The title "**Terramacchina**" evokes the principal issue of the story: the agriculture mechanization, that has determined a strong shift of perspective in the relationship between man and environment, besides the well known benefits in terms of quality of life and productivity.

Materials and Time needed

Viewing and discussion: 90 minutes

Instructions

Terramacchina has took shape within the project research "Echoes in/sustainability: the territory speaks about itself", promoted and coordinated by CIREA (Italian Centre for Research and Environmental Education – Department of Biosciences, University of Parma), attended by all the environmental education centers in the Province of Parma (Boschi di Carrega Park, Taro Park, 100 Lake

Park, Stirone Park, Cidiep, LEDA-Legambiente), co-financed by the Emilia Romagna Region (Announcement INFEA CEA 2009 and 2010) and by the Province of Parma.

At the basis of the project there was the idea to analyze and to tell the territory of the province of Parma, using as key word for its analysis the (un)sustainability (environmental, economical and social) and focusing the attention on the food-farming sector.

The more ambitious goal the project aimed to pursue was to encourage the acquisition of awareness and responsibility in managing the territory and its resources, among citizens, local stakeholders and institutions

Web site: <http://terramacchina.unipr.it>

Related card to be found in the Section “Updating and In-depth Study”.

In-depth study