SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Table A.1 Rural Districts characterization of their initiatives and related categories

Tuscany Rural Districts	Categories	Main initiatives	Level of action	Funds	Main actors
Val di Cecina Rural and Organic District[1] (VdC)	Supply chain or (short) supply chain *(13)*	Support activities for the enhancement of local livestock	District level		Agnello Pomarancino Consortia
		Memorandum of understanding ("protocollo di intesa") for collective catering	Local level		Montecatini Val di Cecina Municipality
		"E-food community" project	Regional level	DCF Regional Fund	4 Food Districts[3] and "Rete di imprese"
		Interest in supply chain and district contracts (ICP and IDP)	District level	CSR[2] Regional Fund	
	Food valorisation *(11)*	"Pro ValCecina" project	District level	RDP Regional Fund	

1 As stated in the Annual Report (2022) the Rural District of Val di Cecina acquired also the recognize as Organic District (Decree No 14094 13/07/2022).
2 CSR represents the Rural development supplement of the National Strategic Plan of the CAP.
3 Rural District of Terre Pisano Livornesi, Rural District of Lunigiana, Strada del Vino delle Colline Pisane and Comunità del Cibo di Crinale.

	"A tavola con i prodotti della Val di Cecina" project	District level	16.4 RDP Regional Fund	
	Participation on "Regional Food Roundtable of Tuscany"	Local and regional level		ANCI[4] Toscana
Governance (5)	GRANULAR project "Better knowledge for better rural policies"	Local, district and European level		Universities and local actors
Cultural regeneration and tourism (1)	"Piccoli borghi storici" Piano Nazionale Borghi	Local level	National Fund NRRP MIBACT	
Sustainability (6)	IBIS Project (production of hydrogen from renewable sources)	District level		TEA Sistemi Spa
	Various collaborations with research centre (sustainability, circular economy)	Local level		Agroecology group SSSA, Polo Tecnologico Magona
Organic production (12)	"Memorandum of understanding" to promote the organic production	Local level		Riparbella Municipality, Promoting

					Committee "RipaBio"
	Natural resources management *(7)*	Table for integrated design (agro-irrigation system) and experimentation activities for wastewater reuse	Interdistrict level		Consorzi di Bonifica 5 Toscana Costa, 4 Basso Valdarno and Consorzio ARETUSA[5]
		Participation on establishment of the "Contratto di Fiume"	Intermunicipal level		Basin District Authority, Municipalities, companies, associations
Rural District of Southern Tuscany (ST)	Cultural regeneration and tourism *(1)*	"Piccoli borghi storici" Piano Nazionale Borghi	Local level	NRRP – National Fund MIBACT	Lucignano and Trequanda municipalities
	Food valorisation *(11)*	Involvement in "Competence Centre of Traditional Agri-Food Products"	Local and regional level	DCF Regional Fund	Ente Terre Toscane and various actors
	Supply chain *(13)*	Proposal for - "E-food community" project	Interdistrict level		Rural District of Montalcino-San Giovanni d'Asso

5 Consorzio ARETUSA is composed by ASA spa in association with Solvay Chimica Italia spa e TM.E. Spa Termomeccanica Ecologica.

					and Orcia Wine Street
	Territorial integration *(4)*	Proposal submitted for IDP 2019 Southern Tuscany	District level	RDF Regional Fund	PIN scrl as technical actors Chamber of Commerce, and LAG FAR
		Participation in a study on the role of RD and food as subjects capable of organizing the demand for investment and use of public resources	District level		Accademia dei Georgofili
		Proposal submitted for "District Contract Agreement" Southern Tuscany	District level	National Fund MASAF	
	Knowledge exchange, *(2),* networking *(9)*	Meetings with other subjects by setting up an RD in Bolzano	Interdistrict level		Union of South Tyrolean Farmers and Farmers
Chianti Rural District (RDC)	Territorial integration *(4)*	Proposal submitted for IDP 2019 "Vino e territorio"	District level	RDP Regional Fund	All actors of the district and various farmers

	(Research) territorial needs *(8)*	Survey on the Digital Divide and analysis of the territory	District level		
Interprovincial floriculture district of Lucca and Pistoia (IFLP)	Sustainability *(6)*, supply chain *(13)*	Proposal submitted for IDP 2019 "HUB for the marketing of flowers and plants grown within the district according to compatible methods"	Local level	RDP Regional Fund	
	Knowledge exchange *(2)*, networking *(9)*	Participation in event (LIFE Subsed project)	District, European level		FLORA Tuscany
	Networking *(9)*	Networking with Vivaistic Ornamental District of Pistoia	Interdistrict level		Vivaistic Ornamental District of Pistoia
Rural District of Montalcino e San Giovanni d'Asso (MSG)	Territorial integration *(4)*	Proposal submitted for IDP 2019 "M.A.W. (Montalcino: Also, of Wine)"	District level	RDP Regional Fund	
	Food valorisation *(11)*	Promotion of events and festivals on food	District level		Montalcino municipality

		Path of realization of the brand "*Eccellenze di Montalcino*"	District level		
		Virtual experiential path through "Patto territoriale Interregionale VATO"	District level		Local museums
	(Agri-food) education *(15)*	Project for the Citadel of the training of agri-food	District level		Montalcino municipality, Province of Siena, and various actors
	Knowledge exchange *(2),* networking *(9)*	Partnerships	International level		Napa and Hautvillers
	Supply chain *(13)*	Proposal for "E-food community" project	Interdistrict level	DCF Regional Fund	Rural District of Southern Tuscany and Orcia Wine Street
Rural District of Valdarno di Sopra (VS)	Harmonization *(10)*	Action for consistency of administrative acts	Local level		Loro Ciuffenna and Bucine municipalities
	Supply chain *(13)*	Interest in calls like MASAF (District contract),	District level		

		Region (IDP and ICP), and LAG Appennino Aretino			
		Projects in progress (Mercatale's and Mercatale Figline Valdarno renovation)	District level		Rete Soggetto Mercato Coperto
	Landscape (3)	Research project for study establishment Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems GIAHS	District level		University of Florence
Rural District of Lunigiana (LUN)	Supply chain (13)	"E-food community" project	Regional level	DCF Regional Fund	4 Food Districts and "Rete di imprese"
	Knowledge exchange (2), networking (9)	Exchange with Rural District of Val di Cecina	Interdistrict level		Rural district of Val di Cecina
	Natural resource management (7)	Participation in the actions to create a "Green Community Lunigiana"	District level and additional territory	Next Generation EU NRRP, National Fund	Lunigiana Mountain Union of municipalities and Pontremoli municipality
Rural Forestry District of Pistoia Mountain (PM)	Territorial integration (4)	Protocol of understanding for the constitution of a "Pole for the economy of	Local level		Tuscany region, San Marcello Piteglio municipality,

		the mountain" in Campo Tizzoro			various Research Centers, Consortia
		Joint proposal of contract of District with ornamental nursery of Pistoia for overlap and territorial contiguity	Interdistrict level		District with ornamental nursery of Pistoia
	Natural resource management *(7)*	Interest in the Forest Calls on RDP 2014/2022 and SNAI Garfagnana, Lunigiana, Media Valle del Serchio and Appennino Pistoiese	District level and additional territory	National Fund MASAF	
Vivaistic Ornamental Rural District of Pistoia (VO)	Sustainability *(6)*	Protocol of understanding for the introduction of good practices in nursery cultivation	District level	RDP Regional Fund National Fund MASAF	Tuscany Region
		Proposal submitted for IDP 2019 "Vivaismo per un futuro sostenibile"	District level		Unioncamere Toscana, with the ISI Foundations
		Initiative to create a "self-control laboratory"	District level		Accademia dei Georgofili and CREA-DC

	Territorial integration *(3)*, sustainability *(6)*	Project "Actions in support of the Circular Economy"	Interdistrict level		Federchimica Agrifarma
		Joint proposal of contract with Rural Forestry District of Pistoia Mountain	District level		Rural Forestry District of Pistoia Mountain
	Prevention (workplace) *(14)*	District as "technical" (prevention) through activities	District level		
	Knowledge exchange *(2)*, networking *(9)*	"Cycle of meetings to analyse European objectives and future strategies"	District level		
	(Nursery) education *(15)*	"Conosciamoci meglio: il vivaismo pistoiese per il benessere dei cittadini, spiegato ai giovani" initiative	Local level		Fondazione Onlus Attilia Pofferi, secondary schools
Rural District of Mugello (MU)	Supply chain *(13)*	"Piattaforma Logistica e Digitale per E-Commerce per Prodotti Agroalimentari Toscani" "Hub Mugello"	District level	DCF Regional Fund	
	Sustainability *(6)*				TEA Sistemi spa

		IBIS Project (production of hydrogen from renewable sources)			
Rural District of Terre Pisano Livornesi (TPL)	Supply chain and (short) *(13)*	"E-food community" project	Regional level	DCF Regional Fund	4 Food Districts and "Rete di imprese"
		"Le TErre PIsano LIvornesi, un territorio da assaporare lentamente" project	District level	RDP FEASR Regional Fund	

Note: The Rural District of Valdera and Valdarno Inferiore (VVI) is not included since it was formed in 2023.

Source: Authors' elaboration from Annual Reports and Region acts