

TERRAE VIVAE

GROWING LOCAL ROOTS FOR
GLOBAL RESILIENCE

NAVDANYA INTERNATIONAL
EXECUTIVE REPORT | SEMESTER 2025





TERRAE VIVAE

A LIVING NETWORK FOR ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL RESILIENCE

One of Navdanya International's goals is the support and co-creation of regenerative communities in order to guarantee a sustainable future that prioritizes the health and well-being of both people and the planet through earth democracy and food sovereignty. Terrae Vivae is a living network that fosters the transition to agroecology by weaving together research, education, policy, and grassroots action to co-create regenerative communities. It recognizes that agroecology is not just a set of farming techniques but a knowledge-intensive, systemic transformation, reshaping agricultural and community practices and governance structures toward social and ecological resilience. Terrae Vivae creates enabling environments for communities and empowers local connection to ecosystems, stewardship of biodiversity through knowledge and commitment to sustainable, regenerative food systems

I SEMESTER 2025 JAN-JUN

AGROECOLOGY THAT CREATES RESILIENCE AND REGENERATION

211

Youth participants

110

Hours of education

40

Educators, Famers,
Stakeholder

200

Indirect
beneficiaries

23

Events, workshops
and meetings

6

Articles and
position papers

100k+

Social media reach

7

Public events

REGENERATIVE COMMUNITIES

EDUCATION: THE ROOT OF REGENERATION

Participatory education is the foundation of regenerative communities. Direct experiences with the land and its custodians cultivate empathy, responsibility, and critical awareness. Resilience is not mere conservation, but a vital force that regenerates ecosystems and communities in harmony with all living beings. This year, 211 young people took part in our programmes — weaving scientific knowledge, agroecological practice, and creative engagement with nature. We collaborated with educational activities in schools, especially on internship with young adults, to bring experiential and participative learning in the community. Three main pathways guided their journey:

- From Seed to Table — food sovereignty through everyday choices
- Art and Earth — art as a gateway to observe and care for biodiversity
- Agroecology: Reading the Territory — landscapes as ecological and community connections





TERRITORIES AND BENEFICIARIES

The Lake Bracciano area, threatened by industrial monocultures, has become a pilot grassroots project for Terrae Vivae: reconnecting to the territory has never been more urgent – Agroecology becomes a bridge between knowledge and care. It helps us enable resource stewardship and short supply chains to sustain biodiversity, local economies, and communities. Through the collaboration with 2 educational institutions within the framework of civic education and orientation internship, we engaged diverse groups and classes.

GOALS

Reconnect youth with their territories through experiential learning in farms, forests, markets, and local landscapes

Cultivate **ecological literacy** by linking food, soil, biodiversity, and community well-being in everyday life

Strengthen **empathy and responsibility** toward the living world as foundations for regenerative communities

Promote **food sovereignty** by valuing short supply chains, local producers, and artisanal knowledge

Foster **resilience and stewardship** by enabling collective responsibility for ecosystems under threat

FIELD WORK AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN AGROECOLOGY

A important step to community regeneration is the connection to the territory: learning, getting to know and act together with local associations, farmers and farmers markets constituted a key experience in our agroecology learning courses: A helping hand from navdanyas international exoert board connected local activities to global contexts, allowing our participants to grasps the connection from their experience in an international context.

Workshop with Katerina Batello

Principles of applied agroecology: biodiversity, soil health, water, and pollination as the pillars of resilient landscapes. The practical activities showed how agriculture can work with nature, rather than against it, linking it to global challenges and local solutions

Workshop with Nadja El Hage

Critical consumption and food chains: young people learned to look beyond labels and understand how everyday choices shape the well-being of communities and ecosystems and how important collective effort and connection is.



A collective herbarium of spontaneous plants was created, later exhibited at the local Farmers' Market during the Festival of Biodiversity, turning scientific and artistic observation into a shared community resource.

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

BUILDING BRIDGES: LOCAL EXPERIENCES, GLOBAL DIALOGUES

The experiences of Terrae Vivae have echoed across national and international contexts. Moments of dialogue, celebration, and exchange have carried the voices of local communities into wider networks, strengthening a shared commitment to food sovereignty and biodiversity.

Through its educational pathway in agroecology, Terrae Vivae has supported the growth of community spaces and reinforced local food networks. Showcasing Terrae Vivae as an example of local resilience in international arenas has fostered collective growth and opened new horizons of collaboration. A tangible expression of this journey is the youth-led short film created by participants, capturing the learning and transformation experienced throughout the program.

From the seed safeguarded by farmers' hands to international networks, we cultivate a future of shared resilience and food justice.



A youth-led short film on agroecology and community connection was produced and presented at the Bracciano International Film Festival, giving young participants a creative voice to share their perspective on biodiversity and the future of their territory.

RIGENERATE AND CONNECT

The **farmers' market** grew as a community space through collaboration of the agroecology course. Events, debates, and shared experiences, reinforced local food networks while linking them to the principles of Food Democracy, offering young people and families a place of learning and connection.

Rights of Nature, Agriculture, and Activism (Rome) NI participated in a roundtable on international initiatives and Italian collaborations exploring the Rights of Nature as a legal tool for the protection of ecosystems and habitats, with contributions from Mari Margil (CDER).



Participation in the Humus Festival with Satish Kumar A shared reflection on the value of regenerative communities and the cultural roots that sustain them.

Contribution to the Rome International Food Policy Council Meeting

Perspectives on the future of food democracy and food production and distribution, organized by the American University of Rome and the Rome Food Policy Council. Navdanya International, as a member of the Rome Food Policy Council, contributed to the dialogue by sharing insights from its grassroots and international work.

Biodiversity Festival (Ostuni)

At the Biodiversity Festival in Ostuni, Terrae Vivae was presented alongside a roundtable on seed freedom, new GMOs, and the cultural rights of farmers. The discussion was held in collaboration with XFarm, University of Bari, Climavore, and Sementi Indipendenti.

ADVOCACY FOR THE WEB OF LIFE

The defense of biodiversity and food sovereignty requires not only local practices but also advocacy tools capable of influencing national and international arenas. In its first semester of activities, Terrae Vivae helped strengthen the voice of civil society against new GMOs and seed patents, consolidating a common front of resistance.

Voices of resilience:

Update on the resistance of farmers and civil society organizations in Mexico against GMOs and on the constitutional reform to protect agrobiodiversity and food sovereignty.

Publication of articles and endorsement of the campaign **"GMO-Free Municipalities and Regions."** Promotion of the screening of the documentary *The Seeds of Vandana* as part of the Food Sovereignty Caravan led by Crocevia.

Short film Biodiversity is Life — showcasing education as the key to regeneration and raising awareness of biodiversity as a common good.

Our **communication strategy** reached over 100,000 people: reels, short videos, and posts on the agroecology pathway and advocacy efforts resonated widely across social media.

Position Paper "No ai nuovi OGM" co-signed in alliance with 16 civil society organisations

211 youth and 40 other direct beneficiaries engaged in **hands-on pathways** connecting theory and practice

Perception of nature shifted from “background” to a **living web** of relationships with soil, plants, and food

Greater **awareness** of biodiversity’s role in resilient farming and climate adaptation

Stronger **community ties** through encounters with farmers, markets, and regenerative farms

Creative outputs: **youth produced short film** and **herbarium**

Strengthened the **voice of civil society** in Italy and internationally against GMO deregulation and seed patents, consolidating alliances across 16 organizations and supporting grassroots campaigns

Visibility to global struggles, such as the Mexican **farmers’ resistance**, connecting local experiences with international movements for agrobiodiversity and food sovereignty.

Amplified outreach through communication: more than **100,000 people** reached via social media, reels, and mini-videos on agroecology and advocacy themes.

Expanded public awareness by linking education, art, and advocacy — exemplified in the short film Biodiversity is Life and the dissemination of The Seeds of Vandana documentary.

IMPACT

“

I SAW THE STUDENTS HIGHLY ENGAGED; THEY WERE INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT THEIR TERRITORY AND EXPERIENCED MEANINGFUL MOMENTS, ADDRESSING CRUCIAL THEMES SUCH AS CLIMATE CHANGE, THE IMPORTANCE OF BIODIVERSITY, AND SHORT FOOD SUPPLY CHAINS.

-HOMEROOM TEACHER

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WHAT'S NEXT?

GROWING TOGETHER, ROOT THE FUTURE

The journey of Terrae Vivae continues to branch out. What began as local pathways of ecological learning is now expanding into international dialogues, new tools for educators, and living spaces where communities can grow in harmony with the land.

In 2025, we will open a new ecological training pathway for youth, contribute to the International Agroecology Gathering in India, and join the Latin American Meeting on GMOs in Mexico. We will also publish an international GMO report and launch an Agroecology Education Manual for facilitators.

Looking ahead to 2026, our vision will take root through the creation of a multi-stakeholder Agroecology Hub for regenerative communities, as well as a green classroom — spaces where learning, nature, and community come together.

We are growing. Grow with us.

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