

# “Diversify or die”

## The importance of agriculture heritage for our lives.

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# SIMPLIFICATION versus DIVERSITY.

- We are living a “simplification process” at global level.
- This mean a loss of diversity in:
  - Culture
  - Governance
  - Landscapes
  - Agriculture systems

**HOMOGENIZATION of cultures.**

Mapudungun /"walking deads".

The language base is disappearing

(Photo: Mapuche woman. Chile)



## Communities & Governance systems

Governance systems:  
traditional comunal systems  
all ove the world were nearly  
erased by national States the  
last two centuries and now by  
the gobal politics.

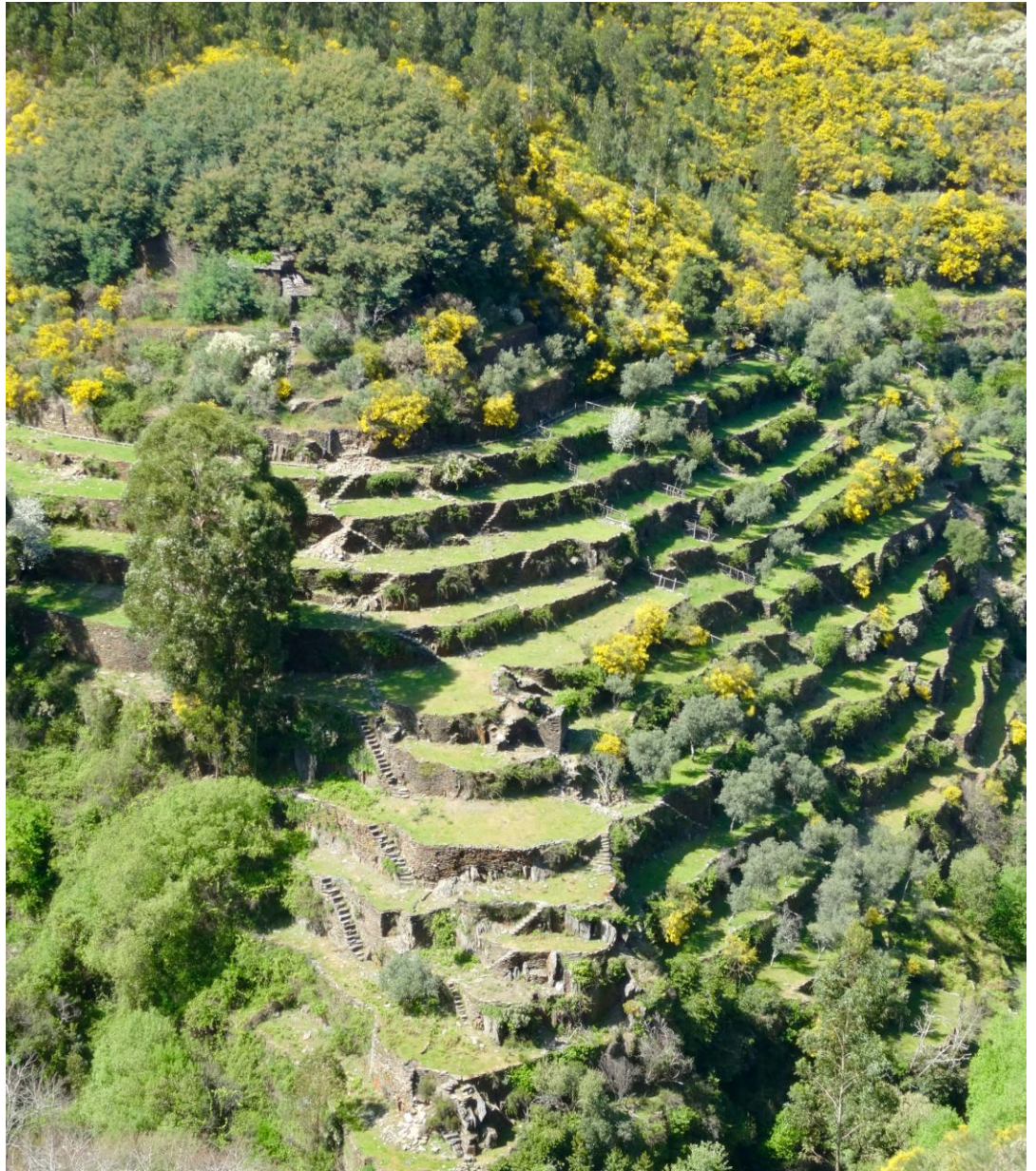
Communities dismantled  
Individual choices instead

(Photo: Guadalajara (Spain))



Landscapes: international corporations investments & supranational entities policies are homogenizing landscapes:

(Photo: Piodao (Portugal))



## Agriculture heritage is being eroded

Traditional multifunctional agriculture systems: such as DEHESA, a High Nature Value production system in South West of Iberian Península, result of the interaction of multiple management practices

Greatly due to the EU Common Agriculture Policy

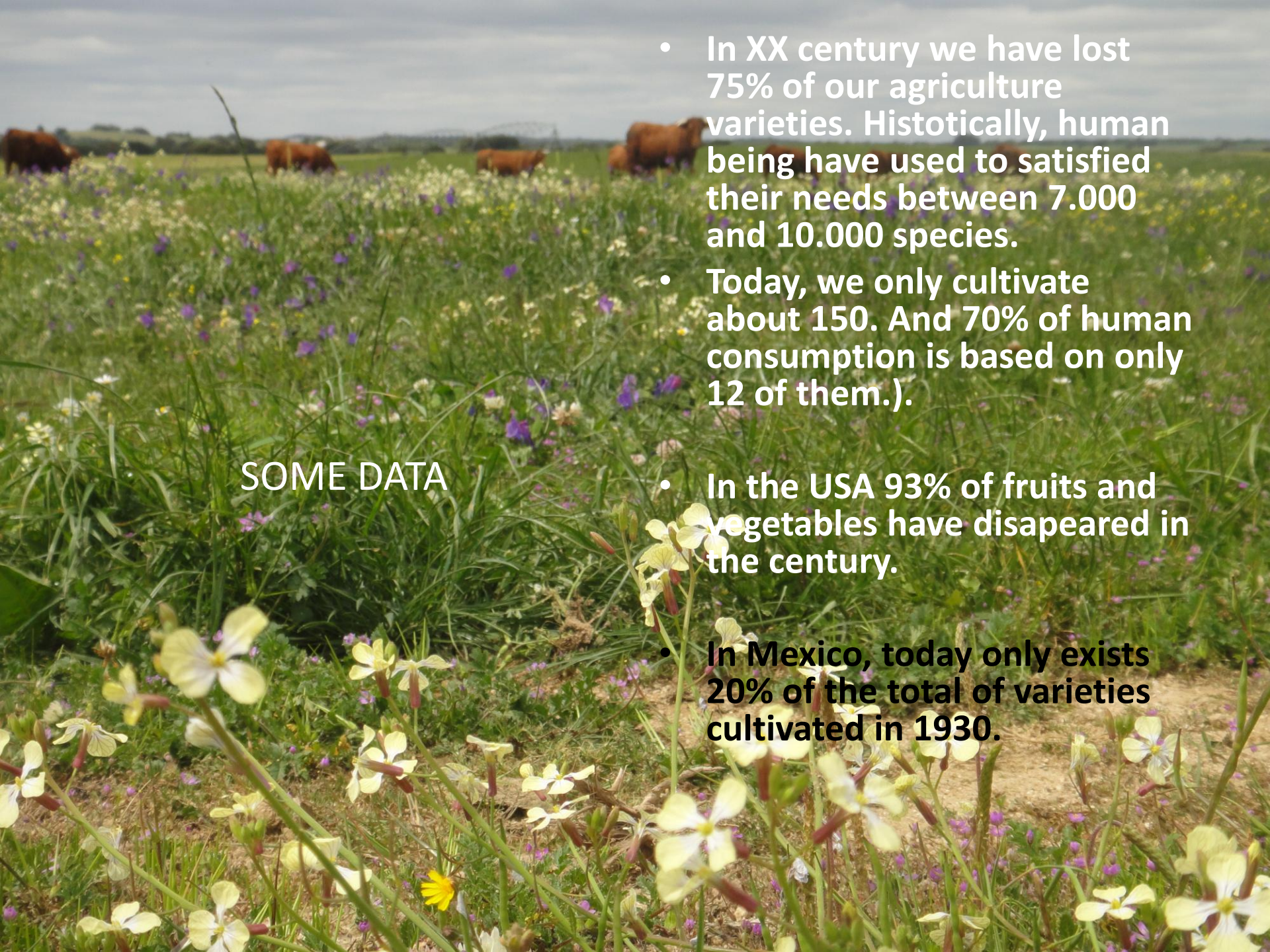
Where “simplification” is a mantra and standarization a “must”.

(Photo: Córdoba (Spain))



# Just imagine...

- Taj Mahal
- Alhambra of Granada
- Chinese Wall
- Budapest Parliament building

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- In XX century we have lost 75% of our agriculture varieties. Historically, human being have used to satisfied their needs between 7.000 and 10.000 species.
  - Today, we only cultivate about 150. And 70% of human consumption is based on only 12 of them.)

## SOME DATA

- In the USA 93% of fruits and vegetables have disapeared in the century.
- In Mexico, today only exists 20% of the total of varieties cultivated in 1930.



A large, layered rock formation, possibly a cliff face, showing signs of ancient agriculture. The rock is reddish-brown and has a distinct horizontal band of small, circular holes, likely an ancient irrigation system. The top of the formation is flat and appears to be a plateau. The sky is clear blue.

Result:

The result is a big and rapid loss of agriculture heritage, built through millions of years.

# What does this genetic erosion mean?

- Diversity=resiliency. Loss of resistance to diseases and loss of adaptation capacity to changes (eg: climate change). Difficulty in applying traditional remedies.
- Reduction of possibilities to improvement by genetic mix (loss of the “pieces” for “new constructions”)
- Increase food insecurity: more depend on less varieties and less producers in far markets, that control prices and supply.
- Biodiversity loss can affect the viability of ecosystems by decreasing the ability of communities to respond to environmental change and disturbances.
- Landscape simplification filters species traits and drives biotic homogenization
- Genetic dependency: Paradoxically, the so called “poor countries” are richer in biodiversity (eg: tropical and sub-tropical areas and in Europe Mediterranean countries: Spain is the country with highest biodiversity). 70% of Europe cultivated species depends on genetic resources from other parts of the world (to improve or solve problems)

# Consequences

The current loss of agriculture heritage make human being vulnerable putting us all at high risk in terms of survival.



# What can we do about it?

- we urgently need to protect our agricultural heritage alive and “in production”, considering our traditional species and production systems as “DINAMIC MUSEUMS”.
- Communal governance systems are crucial: PARTICIPATION in decision making processes.
- As consumer: keep these valuable heritage consuming products of high nature value systems, local and traditional products that enhance the ecosystems where they are produced.

An aerial photograph showing a large herd of black sheep grazing on a steep, rocky mountain slope. The terrain is covered with patches of green grass and shrubs. The sheep are scattered across the slope, following the contours of the land. The lighting suggests a bright, sunny day, casting shadows on the rocks.

Transhumance is a good example

(Photo; Puerto del Pico , Spain).

**Look for diversity!!!!!! Diversify your life**

**THANK YOU!!!!**