

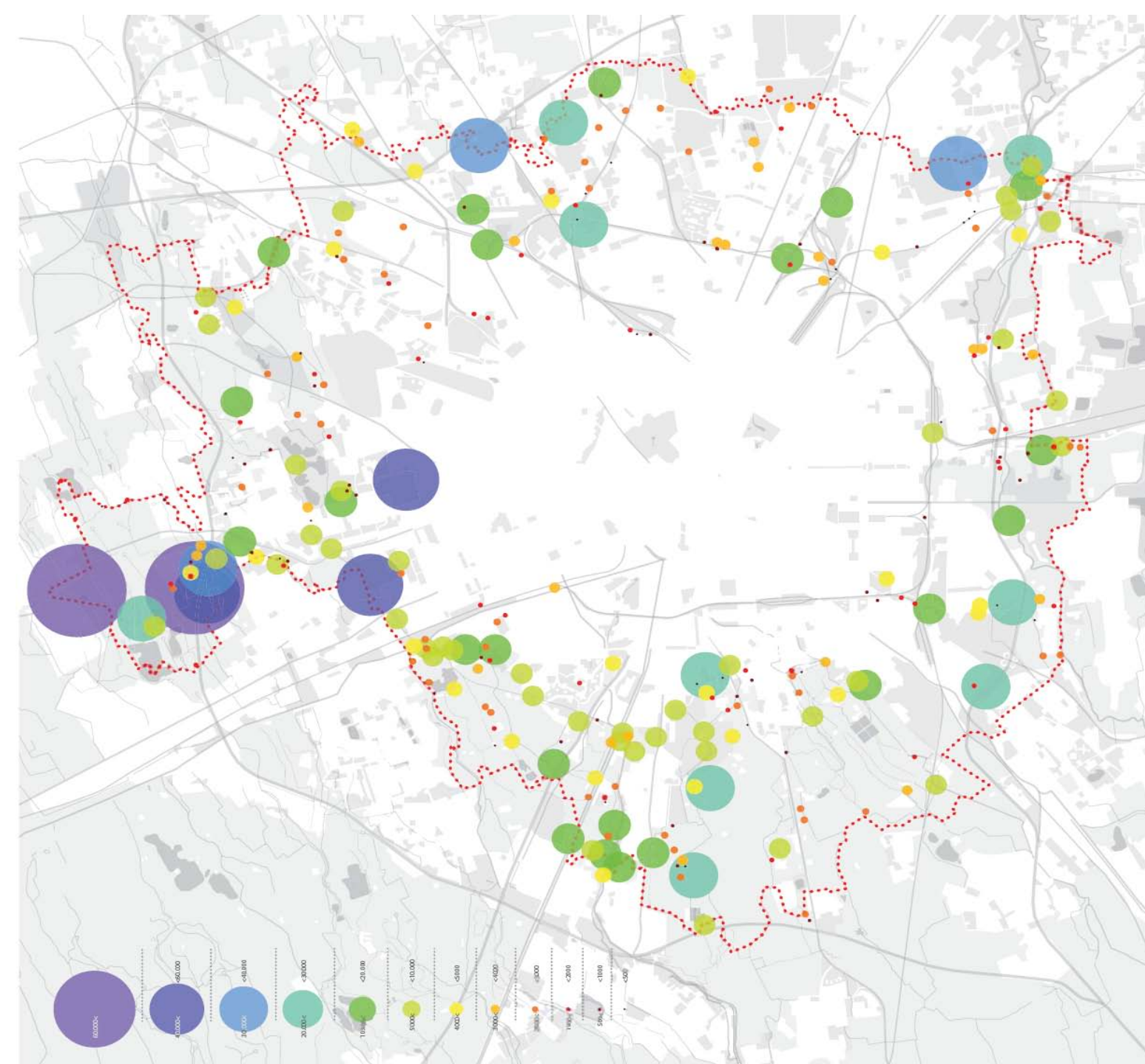
Territorial context

Milano metropolitan area is the wide area between Ticino and Adda rivers and the first pre-Alpine reliefs. It lies at the turn of high and low plains of Lombardy and is crossed by the “risorgive”, springs that are exploited for irrigation through the creation of semi-artificial structures called “fontanili”. and a dense network of canals. The administrative institution of the Metropolitan City of Milano contains 134 municipalities .

Population: 3176.18 million inhabitants

Surface: 1,578 km²

Utilized agricultural area: 66,461 ha



Urban Agriculture Types

Local food farms:

153 local food farms (direct sale)
49 farmers’ markets (15 of these in Milan city)
151 GAS, 83 of which in the city of Milan

Leisure farms:

116 equestrian centers
93 agrotourism

Agri-environmental farms: 48

Gardens:

1378 Allotment gardens
10 Community gardens

Spatial Planning/history phenomenon

The idea of the necessity
to protect agricultural
areas as urban parks

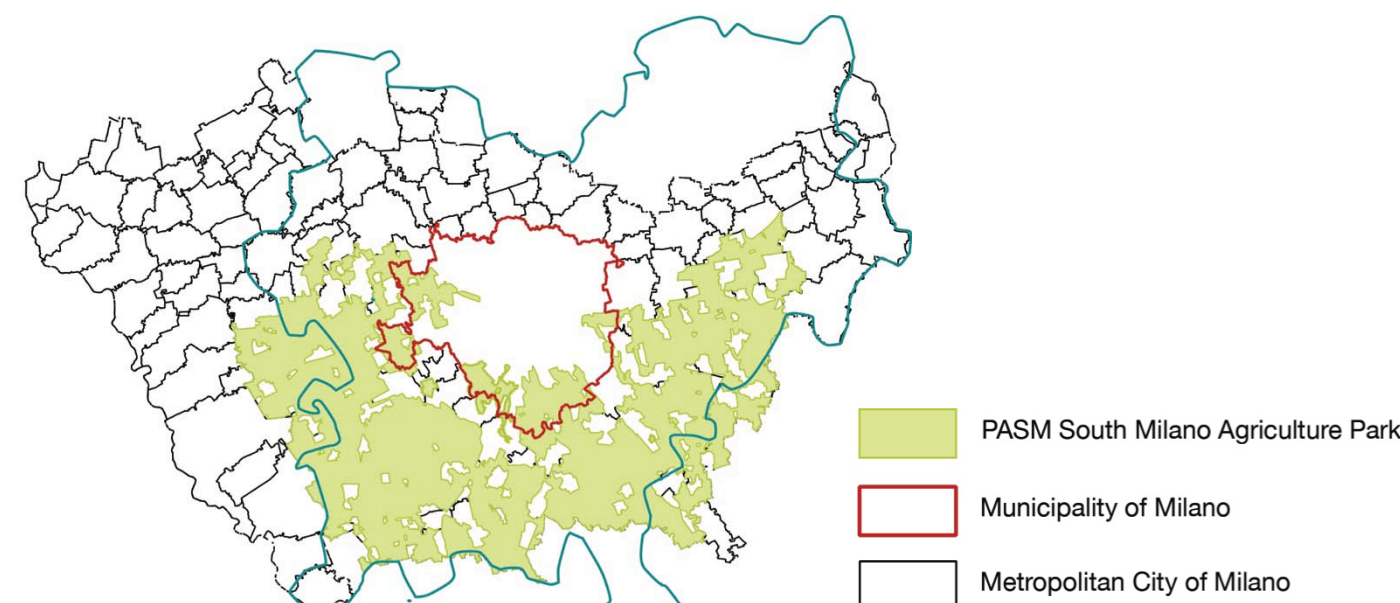
The idea of an industrial Milano is relatively recent (since the first decade of the 20th century); indeed, the area outside the old city walls was left for centuries to agricultural production and livestock related to the city. Agriculture has been one of the most important and most celebrated technical achievements since the middle age.

The idea of the necessity to protect agricultural areas from urban growth was born in 1960 and leads to the establishment of some first parks, intended as protected areas. In 1990, Lombardy Region instituted the South Milano Agricultural Park (PASM) due to increased awareness that the maintenance of agricultural activity and the preservation of rural heritage contribute to a better quality of urban space. The awareness of the value of agriculture was confirmed recently by some territorial planning tools that, at provincial and municipal levels, require the identification of “areas used for farming of strategic interest”.

Today we are witnessing a process of enhancement of agricultural land and its artifacts by citizens and farmers as a form of people identity.

Food gardening also has a long history in Milano. In 1942, more than 10,000 productive gardens were built in municipal areas to sustain the population. Since the late 1980s the City Council has made some plots of land available to the citizens. Nowadays, food gardening in Milano is very diffused and covers different kinds and sizes of gardens, from allotment to community, from educational to therapeutic.

South Milano Agricultural Park (PASM)



Types: Agricultural park

Year: 1990 **Promoter:** Lombardy region

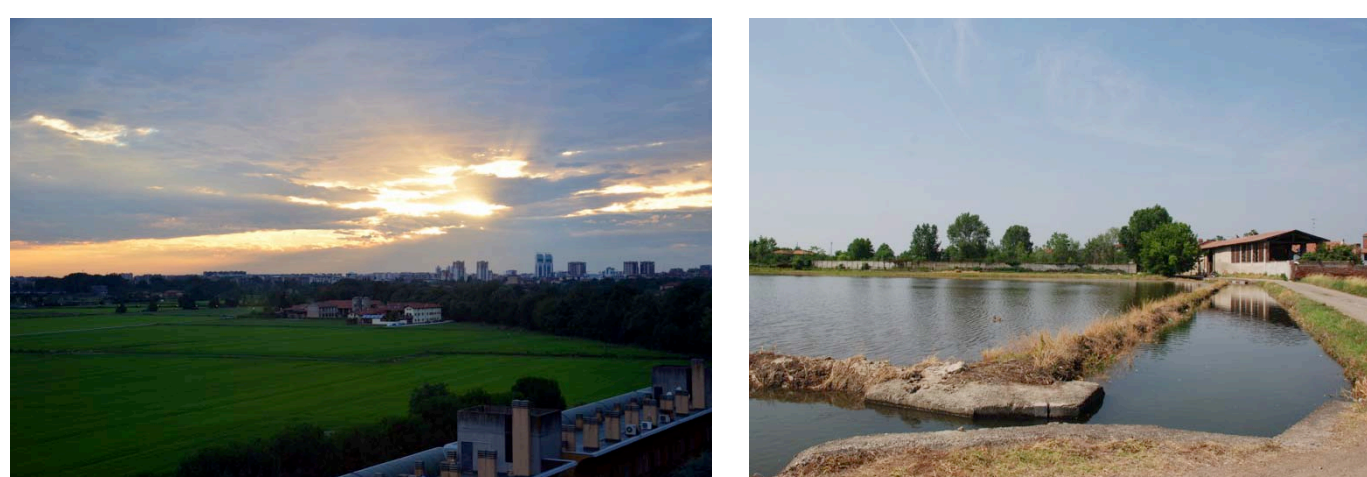
Exention: about 47,000 ha of agricultural land over 61 municipalities

Actors: 1000 farms

Functions: very diversified (direct sale, educational, cultural heritage protection, agrotourism, etc.)

The main activity is the breeding of cattle and pigs. The most widespread crop is cereals (40%), followed by rice (28%) and meadows (17%). There are also soy and sunflower crops, orchards and nurseries. The park has its own brand of quality and promotes several projects to enhance agricultural production and citizens’ enjoyment of the landscape.

Parco delle risaie



Types: Agricultural park

Year: 2008 **Promoter:** Parco delle risaie Association

Actors: 5 farms

Functions: very diversified (direct sale, educational, cultural heritage protection, agrotourism, etc.)

The project was born with the purpose of preserving the agricultural production and the landscape of rice fields, that, belonging to Milanese culture for centuries, is perceived as important for quality of life, the environment and local identity. It is a pilot project based on a bottom-up approach and a strategic scenario to be built over time. The landscape project allows visitors to use and appreciate this landscape without interfering with agricultural activities.

Cascina Femegro



Types: Cultural heritage farm

Year: XVIII century **Exention:** 90 ha of agricultural land

Actors: conducted by Brambilla family since the 1930

Functions: direct sale, educational, cultural heritage protection

It is a very significant example due to the permanence of the ancient buildings and traditional agrarian practices. The open landscape around the farm includes drained fields, originating from the Middle Ages to the 18th century. The land is planted with raw materials (corn, soybean, alfalfa, rice) necessary to feed the cows, and rice, for both seed and food. The dairy cows belong to a certified Italian breed and the milk produced is certified with the “high quality” brand. Cascina Femegro also offers educational and direct sale services.

Libero orto



Types: Community garden

Year: 2005 **Exention:** 1,8 ha

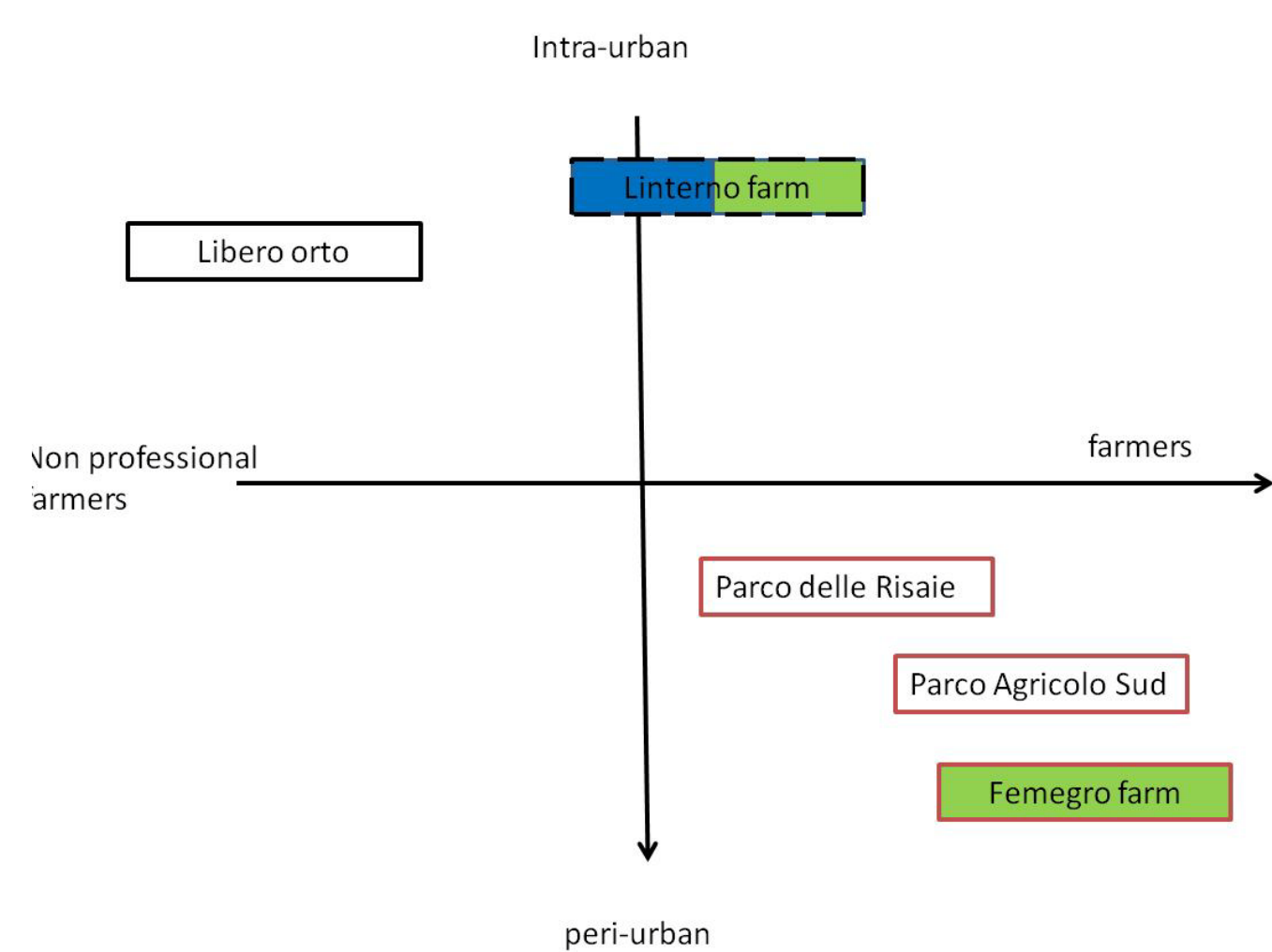
Promoter: non-profit association “Il Giardino degli Aromi,”

Actors: citizens

Functions: social, educational, therapeutic

It is a large community garden within the former Psychiatric Hospital Paolo Pini, in the north of the city. The members, promote horticulture as a tool for physical and mental wellbeing. Both individual plots and collective areas characterize the space. Plot assignment is subordinated to the care of common areas and participation in the meetings, where the methods of cultivation are discussed and the garden’s rules are shared. Knowledge gained in “Libero Orto” is transmitted through specific training courses and meetings with people about environmental education, herb recognition and so on.

Actors and Public Policies



Policies and governance

Agriculture is the object of policies at regional, metropolitan and local administration level.

At regional level, the main references are the “Regional Territorial Plan (2010-2014)” and the “Rural Development Program 20142020,” according to CAP policies.

Lombardy Region has promoted the establishment of agricultural districts (L.R. 23 January 2007) sustaining networks of farms enterprises and promoting high quality production, but also preserving the landscape identity as a brand for the food products and as a cultural resource.

At Metropolitan scale, the agricultural park model has lead the policies: the PASM is the regional protected area of greatest extent within the Metropolitan City, but there are many others, as the results of a top-down approach (Local Park of Supramunicipal Interest) or a bottom-up approach (Parco delle Risaie, Parco del Ticinello, etc.)

At municipal level, the Milano municipal governance is of particular relevance, characterized by both a bottom-up and top-down approach. The governance model, called “Milano Metropoli Rurale,” aims to network all the different types of stakeholders connected to agriculture and to foster agricultural parks and districts; food gardens diffusion; short supply chains; restoration of abandoned farmsteads; preservation and re-qualification of landscape; food strategy (www.agricity.it).

Entrepreneurial models

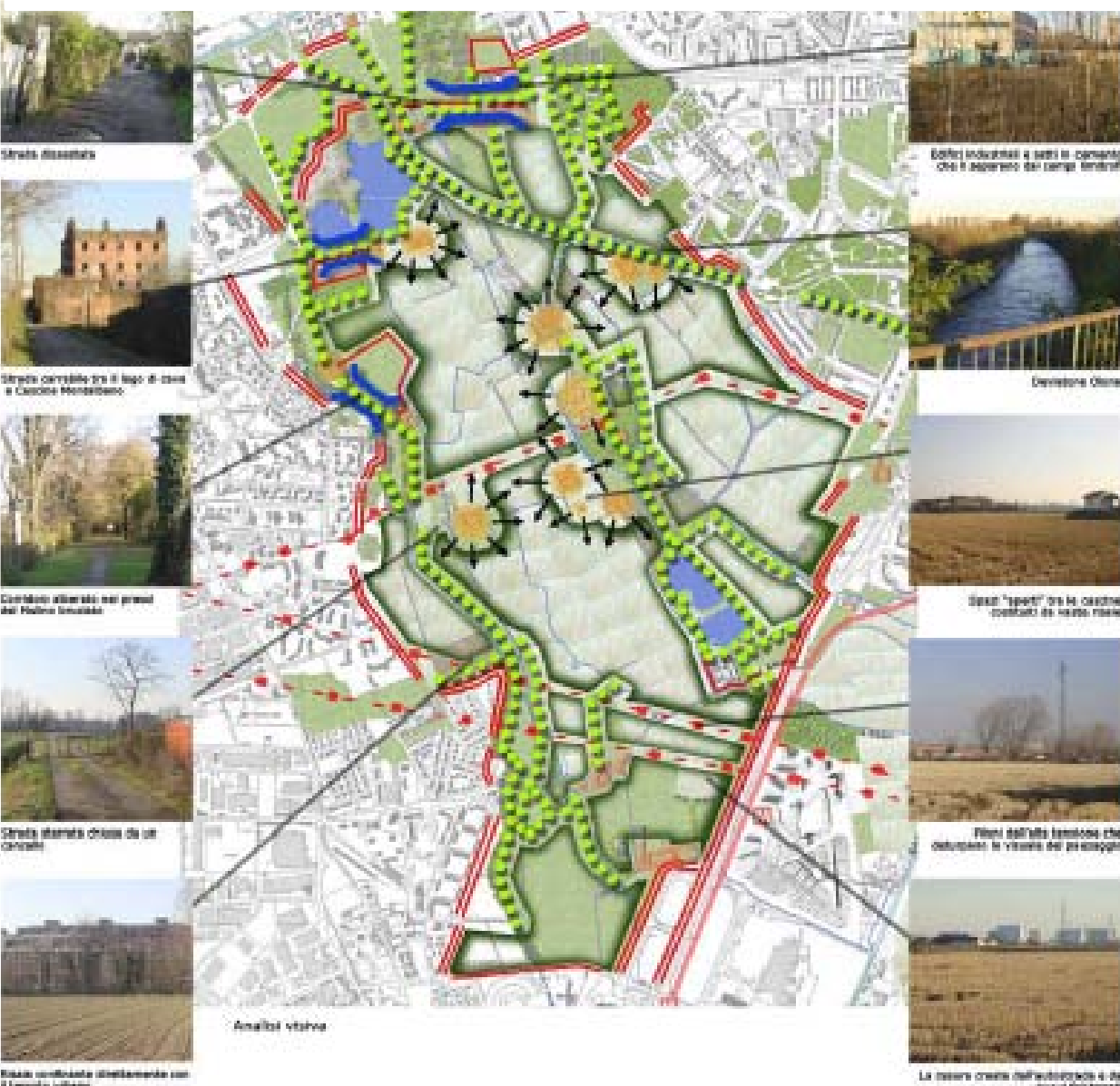
Various types of cooperation between farmers and citizens are successful in Milan . “DESR – Rural Ethical Economic District” is a citizens’ and farmers’ association for the development of short supply chains and food quality in the PASM.

“GAS – Gruppi di Acquisto Solidale” are an associative nonprofit model set up to carry out the collective purchase of local and high quality products and their distribution with ethical, social and environmentally sustainable purposes (similar to CSA – Community Supported Agriculture). It is a highly developed and widespread spontaneous network.

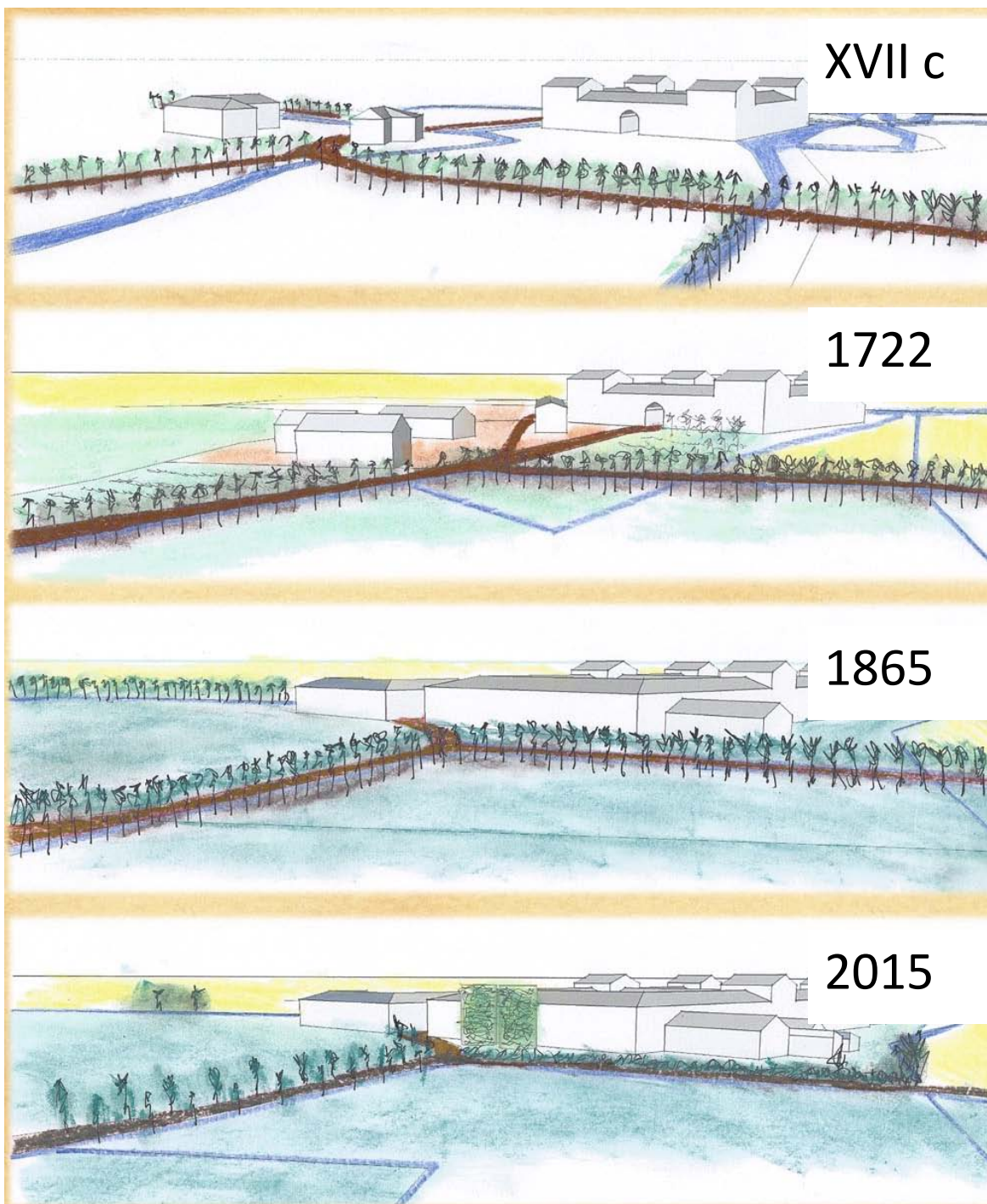
The most important farmers’ confederations, “Confagricoltori” and “CIA – Italian Farmers Confederation,” are promoters of farmers’ markets (“Campagna Amica”; “La Campagna Nutre la Città”) and new forms of distribution and catering (“Mi Gusto Città e Campagna,” born from the encounter of farmers, chefs, students, stand companies and institutions create innovative, short-chain metropolitan area products).

Spatial effects

VISUAL ANALYSIS, PARCO DELLE RISAIE



HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF VISUAL CHARACTERS, FEMEGRO FARM



SPATIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FARM AND HIS FIELDS, FEMEGRO FARM



TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE VALUES OF THE FARM AND HIS FIELDS, LINTERNO FARM

