

pla de gestió

i desenvolupament del Parc Agrari del Baix Llobregat



Plan de gestión y desarrollo del Parc Agrari del Baix Llobregat



The Management and Development Plan of the Parc Agrari del Baix Llobregat



Le Plan de Gestion et de Développement del Parc Agrari del Baix Llobregat




Il Piano di Gestione e Sviluppo del Parc Agrari del Baix Llobregat

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Parc Torreblanca, Ctra. N-340 - 08980 Sant Feliu de Llobregat
Tel. 93 685 24 00 - Fax 93 685 18 68 - e-mail: parcagrari@diba.es

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PRESENTACIÓN

Cuando empezaba a perfilarse lo que iba a ser el Parc Agrari del Baix Llobregat, este se planteó de entrada como un instrumento para el mantenimiento del espacio agrario, desarrollando al tiempo la actividad económica que le es propia y mejorando la calidad ambiental. De esta forma, el espacio agrario iba a actuar como elemento equilibrador desde los puntos de vista ambiental, económico y territorial.

Se consideró asimismo que el modelo de parque agrario tenía que ser el resultado de las propuestas y las aportaciones de los agentes sociales y económicos y de las administraciones públicas que intervienen en el territorio agrario del delta y del valle bajo del Llobregat. Las experiencias puestas en marcha en otros lugares constituían una referencia, pero estaba claro que había que realizar el proyecto a la medida de nuestra realidad agraria periurbana.

El Pla Gestió i Desenvolupament es un documento que puede responder a la pregunta sobre qué funciones debe desempeñar el Parc Agrari. Por este motivo es una contribución importante para configurar el modelo de parque. Se empezó a redactar en el marco del programa LIFE, que estudiaba cómo tenía que ser y cuál era la viabilidad de un Parc Agrari en el Baix Llobregat.

Con su redacción provisional, el Pla de Gestió i Desenvolupament sirvió como referencia para la actuación del Consorci del Parc Agrari y, algo muy importante, se puso a prueba. Su redacción provisional fue objeto de una amplia consulta con el sector agrario, administraciones y entidades sociales y científicas. El resultado de la experiencia de la aplicación y el resultado de la consulta permitieron la redacción y la aprobación definitiva, en 2002, del Pla de Gestió i Desenvolupament que tiene el lector en sus manos.

Mientras se producía esto, se redactó e inició el proceso de aprobación del Pla Especial del Parc Agrari. Dicho Pla Especial es otra herramienta que sirve para concretar, en este caso urbanísticamente, el modelo de parque.

El Pla de Gestió i Desenvolupament indica los ámbitos de actuación, y lo hace desde la realidad del momento de su aprobación. Con el tiempo, las transformaciones en el territorio y en la actividad agraria del Parc, así como la formulación de nuevas propuestas, motivarán una actualización del Pla. Pero hoy por hoy, éste es el que marca la pauta de las actuaciones para el desarrollo de la actividad agraria, la mejora de las condiciones ambientales y la potenciación de los valores de este territorio. Una tarea necesaria para revalorizar el espacio agrario del Parc en el conjunto del territorio y en la percepción que de él tiene nuestra sociedad.

Rosa Boladeras i Serraviñals

Presidenta del Consorci del Parc Agrari del Baix Llobregat

PRESENTATION

When the plans for the *Parc Agrari del Baix Llobregat* (Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park) began to take shape, the idea was, from the very beginning, to make it a tool for the maintenance of the district's agricultural space, developing the economic activity inherent in it and, at the same time, improving environmental quality. In this way, the agricultural space would act as a balancing factor from an environmental, economic and territorial perspective.

It was also felt that the Agricultural Park's model had to be the result of the proposals and contributions of social and economic players and of the authorities involved in the agricultural lands of the Llobregat river's delta and lower valley. The experience of projects in other places provided a useful point of reference, but it was clear that the project would have to be carried out in a way that would be tailor-made for our periurban agricultural situation.

The Management and Development Plan is a document which may provide a response to the question "what role should the Agricultural Park play?". It is thus an important contribution to the job of configuring the Park's model. Work on drawing it up began within the framework of the LIFE Programme, which studied how an Agricultural Park in the Baix Llobregat should be and whether it would be viable.

In draft form, the Management and Development Plan was used as a point of reference for the actions of the Agricultural Park's Consortium and, importantly, it was put to the test. The draft was subject to wide-ranging consultation in the agricultural industry and with authorities and social and scientific organisations. The result of the experiences of implementing it and of the consultation process led, in 2002, to the definitive wording and approval of the Management and Development Plan readers have in their hands today.

Whilst this was occurring, the Agricultural Park's Special Plan was drawn up and its approval process commenced. This Special Plan is another tool which will lead, this time from a planning viewpoint, to specifying the Park's model.

The Management and Development Plan indicates the Park's scope of action and does so from the perspective of the situation at the time of its approval. Over the course of time, changes in the Park's landscape and agricultural activities, as well as the formulation of new proposals, will lead to an updating of the Plan. But, for now, the Plan will set the framework for work on developing agricultural activities, improving environmental conditions and boosting the values of the area. This is a vital task in the job of enhancing the Park's agricultural lands and the perception held of it in our society.

Rosa Boladeras i Serraviñals

President of the *Consorci del Parc Agrari del Baix Llobregat*

PRÉSENTATION

Alors que commençait à se profiler ce qui allait être le Parc Agrari del Baix Llobregat, c'est d'emblée qu'on le considéra comme un instrument capable de conserver l'espace agraire, tout en développant l'activité économique qui lui est propre et en améliorant la qualité de l'environnement. L'espace agraire agirait donc comme élément équilibrant du point de vue de l'environnement, du point de vue économique et territorial.

On considère également que le modèle du Parc Agrari devait être le résultat des propositions et des apports des agents sociaux et économiques ainsi que des administrations publiques qui interviennent sur le territoire agraire du delta et de la basse vallée du Llobregat. Les expériences qui eurent lieu ailleurs sont une référence, mais il était bien clair qu'il fallait réaliser le projet à la mesure de notre réalité agraire périurbaine.

Le Pla de Gestió i Desenvolupament est un document qui peut répondre à la question quel est le rôle du Parc Agrari. C'est pour cela qu'une contribution est très importante pour la configuration du modèle du Parc. Le Pla fut d'abord rédigé dans le cadre du programme LIFE, qui étudiait comment il devait être et quelle serait la viabilité d'un Parc Agrari au Baix Llobregat.

Grâce à sa rédaction provisoire, le Pla de gestió i Desenvolupament servit de référence pour l'action du Consorci del Parc Agrari et chose très importante, il fut mis à l'essai. La rédaction provisoire fut l'objet d'une large consultation dans le secteur agraire, dans les administrations et les entités sociales et scientifiques. Le résultat de l'expérience de l'application et le résultat de la consultation vont permettre la rédaction et l'approbation définitive en 2002 du Pla de gestió i Desenvolupament que vous avez dans les mains.

Pendant ce temps-là, on rédigea et on mit en voie d'approbation le Pla Especial du Parc Agrari. Le Pla Especial est un autre outil de travail servant à concrétiser, dans ce cas précis de manière urbanistique, le modèle du Parc.

Le Pla de Gestió i Desenvolupament délimite les cadres d'actions et il le fait à partir de la réalité du moment de son approbation. Avec le temps, les transformations dans le territoire et dans l'activité agraire du Parc, ainsi que la formulation de nouvelles propositions, motiveront la mise en action du Pla. Mais, maintenant, c'est bien lui qui marque l'ordre des actions pour le développement de l'activité agraire, l'amélioration des conditions de l'environnement et la stimulation des valeurs de ce territoire. Une tâche nécessaire pour revaloriser l'espace agraire du Parc dans l'ensemble du territoire et dans la perception qu'en a notre société.

Rosa Boladeras i Serraviñals

Présidente du Consorci del Parc Agrari del Baix Llobregat

PRESENTAZIONE

Sin dalle prime mosse, quando cominciava appena a delinearsi ciò che doveva essere il Parco Agrario del Baix Llobregat, il progetto fu concepito come uno strumento volto a conservare lo spazio agrario, sviluppando al tempo stesso l'attività economica che gli è propria e migliorando la qualità ambientale. In questo modo, lo spazio agrario avrebbe agito come elemento di equilibrio dal punto di vista ambientale, economico e territoriale.

Fu anche stabilito che il modello di Parco Agrario dovesse essere il risultato delle proposte e dei contributi provenienti dalle diverse parti sociali ed economiche e dalle amministrazioni pubbliche presenti sul territorio agrario del delta e della bassa valle del Llobregat. Le esperienze già avviate in altri luoghi costituivano un punto di riferimento, ma era chiaro che bisognava realizzare il progetto a misura della nostra realtà agraria periurbana.

Il Piano di Gestione e Sviluppo è un documento che può rispondere alla domanda su quali sono le funzioni del Parco Agrario. È quindi un contributo importante per delineare il modello di Parco. L'elaborazione del Piano prende le mosse nell'ambito del programma LIFE, che studiava come doveva essere e qual era l'attuabilità di un Parco Agrario nella zona del Baix Llobregat.

Nella sua redazione provvisoria, il Piano di Gestione e Sviluppo è servito come punto di riferimento per l'operato del Consorzio del Parco Agrario e, cosa molto importante, è stato messo a prova. Il testo provvisorio è stato oggetto di un'ampia consultazione con il settore agrario, con le amministrazioni e con gli organismi sociali e scientifici. Il risultato dell'esperienza dell'applicazione del piano e il risultato di questo confronto hanno reso possibile la stesura e approvazione definitiva nel 2002 del Piano di Gestione e Sviluppo che avete ora in mano.

Nel frattempo veniva redatto il Piano Speciale del Parco Agrario e avviato il processo per la sua approvazione. Il Piano Speciale è un altro strumento volto a concretizzare il modello di Parco, in questo caso dal punto di vista urbanistico.

Il Piano di Gestione e Sviluppo indica gli ambiti di intervento e lo fa partendo dalla realtà del momento in cui è stato approvato. Con l'andare del tempo, le trasformazioni nel territorio e dell'attività agraria del Parco e la formulazione di nuove proposte saranno motivo di aggiornamento del Piano. Ma per il momento il piano attuale assolve il compito di definire gli interventi per lo sviluppo dell'attività agraria, per il miglioramento delle condizioni ambientali e per il potenziamento dei valori del territorio. Un compito necessario per rivalorizzare lo spazio agrario del Parco nel complesso del territorio e nella percezione che ne ha la nostra società.

Rosa Boladeras i Serraviñals

Presidente del Consorzio del Parco Agrario del Baix Llobregat



**THE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN
OF EL PARC AGRARI DEL BAIX LLOBREGAT**

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1. INTRODUCTION

For many years, the agricultural area of the delta and lower valley of the Llobregat has undergone a process of deterioration, in varying degrees depending on location. This process has been caused by intrusion within the agricultural area of activities that are unconnected with it, such as road network infrastructures that cut through it; rubbish dumps; unsightly constructions; and pollution of surface water and aquifers. This has affected the functions of the agricultural area in the region as whole, and is patently manifested in the loss of environmental quality and the abandonment of professional farming.

The farming carried out in the delta and lower valley is periurban, which means that it is conditioned by urban surroundings. This entails some negative impacts that affect its economic viability, but at the same time offers certain opportunities. These periurban impacts are also the main driving forces behind environmental degradation of the area.

Nevertheless, Baix Llobregat is one of the most agriculturally productive regions of Catalonia, despite the effects of fruit and vegetable growing in other parts of Spain, competition from other countries and internationalisation of the market. These factors significantly affect the profitability of farming businesses in the region which, as already mentioned, are subject to notable limitations. This competitive climate calls for modernisation of farms and the opening up of new sales channels that enable marketing of high-quality products, thereby responding to new requirements. The income potential arising from location in the densely populated Barcelona metropolitan area should be exploited to the full.

The construction of infrastructures provided for in the Delta Plan is generating new impacts on the agricultural area, with direct repercussions on farming businesses. Other indirect impacts go beyond the mere use of agricultural land and widely affect farms and the area as a whole. Such impacts need to be minimised.

These effects added to the current situation, which may lead to these actions regarding farming being implemented in the short and medium term, make it necessary to draw up a future model for the agricultural area that should also be a future model for land use and the municipalities of the delta and lower valley.

The agricultural area performs positive functions: environmental (green space, land use balance, landscape creation, etc.); economic (it contains farms that carry out economic activities); and social (it provides jobs for many agricultural workers and, as a nature area, cultural and leisure opportunities for city dwellers).

Conservation of the agricultural area can only take place if farming is economically viable. This is only possible if it is carried out by full- or part-time farmers, with stable conditions, future prospects and adequate incomes.

1.1 Background

The idea and the first systematic reflection on creating an agricultural park on the Llobregat plan go back some time. In 1994, the Agricultural Promotion Board of the Baix Llobregat Regional Council prepared a document entitled *"The future of farming in the delta and lower valley of the Llobregat within the framework of the Infrastructure and Environmental Plan. Proposal for the Llobregat Agricultural Park"*. This document considered the need to find a new tool for enabling solutions to the problems of the agricultural area that the framework in operation at the time had been unable to solve.

For many years, the Baix Llobregat Farmers' Union, as a professional farming organisation, has placed periurban issues at the centre of its trade union activities, and called for a solution to these problems which endanger the future of farming.

In 1995, the objectives set out in the second phase of preparation of the Baix Llobregat Strategic Plan included: *"to guarantee the stability and viability of agricultural areas"*, and stated that *"agricultural parks provide a framework for developing this policy, thus highlighting the relevance of the Llobregat Agricultural Park project"*.



1. INTRODUCTION

The Agricultural Park is an innovative land use management model that aims to provide tailor-made solutions to problems, without having a pre-established model. There are various management models for periurban agricultural areas in Europe (Milan, Aubagne, Grenoble, etc.), with characteristics adapted to the objectives of each place.

The “park” concept is increasingly being used to identify a quality area with specific management. Consequently, there are industrial areas called technological parks, economic activities parks or business parks. There are also, for example, large commercial areas called commercial parks, which are far removed from the image of public gardens that the word “park” might first call to mind.

Moreover, in the mid-1990s, Barcelona Provincial Council - in the face of environmental and planning policies being carried out by other authorities, such as the metropolitan land development that was taking place at the time, and on the basis of its experience of specific planning and management of natural areas going back more than 20 years - formulated a new proposal for managing the system of free spaces in the metropolitan region of Barcelona. In this **Green Belt Project**, the agricultural area of the delta and lower valley of the Llobregat was assigned a key linking role.

At the same time, Barcelona Provincial Council initiated a new strategy for managing conservation areas by promoting an innovative management model: the **Consortium**. This clearly gave a leading role to local elements and socio-economic entities in the conservation and management of these areas.

The final arrangement of the Green Belt Project entailed conservation of a continuous area of over 15,000 hectares around the metropolitan area, with nature parks – or similar areas – as nuclei and nodules of the **Barcelona Provincial Council Parks Network**, complemented and connected by linking and transition areas that give a meaning to the system as a whole.

Against this backdrop, at the beginning of 1996, Barcelona Provincial Council commissioned the Farmers’ Union to prepare a study on the “*Implementation of an Agricultural Park in the Baix Llobregat region*”, in order to establish a design framework to define the extent and general characteristics of an agricultural park for the lower valley and delta of the Llobregat. This created specific references regarding the agricultural area, its problems and the possibility of initiating actions.

1.2 The EU Life Programme

During the spring of 1996, which coincided with the beginning of the stipulated period for submitting proposals for the European Union’s LIFE Programme – whose key objective was the drawing up of projects leading to improved environmental conditions in coastal areas – Barcelona Provincial Council, Baix Llobregat Regional Council and the Farmers’ Union agreed to collaborate on seeking a new formula for promoting the agricultural area of the delta and lower valley of the Llobregat.

As a result, these bodies submitted a LIFE Programme proposal entitled: “*Preparation of technical and regulatory proposals and pilot implementations for the conservation, improvement and economic promotion of the periurban agricultural area of the Barcelona metropolitan region. The Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park Project*”.

In December 1996, the European Union officially notified its acceptance of the project, with a two-year implementation period from September 1996 to September 1998, which basically consisted of drawing up the Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park Project and conducting pilot implementations in certain areas, to serve as an example for other areas in the European Union with similar problems.



1. INTRODUCTION

In addition to going ahead with the LIFE Programme, it was deemed opportune to launch a wide-ranging process to consolidate and develop the area of the lower valley and delta of the Llobregat, paying special attention to what was approved in the General Barcelona Metropolitan Plan in 1976, in which the area was classified as “rural agricultural land for conservation” (zone 24).

Consequently, in 1997 eleven sectoral studies were commissioned from various professionals and experts, as well as a study on the “*Legal feasibility of the proposal to create the Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park*” from the Department of Administrative Law of the University of Barcelona, and the preparation of a special plan by the Department of Town Planning and Land Use of the Polytechnic University of Catalonia.

1.3 The Agriculture Park consolidation process

Both preliminary and sectoral studies emphasised that the Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park should be **managed with a view to achieving economically viable farms within a framework of sustainable agriculture integrated within the local area and natural environment, with organised social use of the agricultural and natural areas.**

At the end of the whole process, in June 1998 the Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park Consortium was incorporated. Initially it included Barcelona Provincial Council, Baix Llobregat Regional Council and the Farmers’ Union, and was subsequently joined by the Town Councils of Castelldefels, Gavà, Viladecans, el Prat de Llobregat, l’Hospitalet de Llobregat, Cornellà, Sant Boi de Llobregat, Santa Coloma de Cervelló, Sant Joan Despí, Sant Feliu de Llobregat, Molins de Rei, Sant Vicenç dels Horts, Pallejà and el Papiol.

In the same year, the Management and Development Plan was drawn up. This document was the outcome of wide-ranging discussions between the promoters of the Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park (Barcelona Provincial Council, Baix Llobregat Regional Council and the Farmers’ Union). It was published with a provisional proposal and widely distributed to all the sectors involved in the agricultural park, including farmers, technical specialists and politicians.

This provisional proposal was assessed by the company, EURUP, S.L., between January and March 1999, with professionals from the Catalan Association of Doctors and Graduates in Political Science and Sociology based on surveys conducted among agriculture professionals and farm owners from the Agricultural Park.

On 5 June 2002, the Plenary Council of the Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park finally approved the plan, with the introduction of only minor amendments resulting from actual management experience acquired over the years and contributions made by various groups that were consulted.

On 4 March 1999, at the suggestion of the Plenary of the Agricultural Park Consortium, the Barcelona Provincial Council, meeting in plenary session, approved the Launch of the Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park Special Plan and subsequently began preparing the necessary text and graphics for processing the initial approval of the Special Plan, with reference to the sectoral studies, the documentation of the Launch of the Special Plan and the Management and Development Plan.

On 15 July 2002, the Plenary Council of the Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park Consortium agreed to the text of the Special Plan for the Conservation and Improvement of the Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park and proposed that, as the competent authority, the Baix Llobregat Regional Council should initiate approval procedures. The Plenary of the Regional Council granted the Special Plan initial approval on the same date of 15 July 2002.



1. INTRODUCTION

On 17 February 2003, once the declaration period was over and relevant amendments had been incorporated, the Plenary of the Regional Council agreed to the new text of the Special Plan in order to go ahead with its provisional approval and initiate proceedings for its final approval.

The “agricultural park” model is a proposal for implementation in the agricultural sphere which highlights the will to preserve land use values and strengthen their functions. This model is basically aimed at managing an agricultural area via three key instruments that guarantee land use stability, promote development and enable dynamic action.

In the case of the Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park, these instruments are:

1. The **managing body** which, equipped with initiative, human and economic resources and expertise, promotes the economic development of farms and the maintenance and improvement of the environmental quality of the Agricultural Park, based on integral management of the agricultural area (art. 4 of the articles of association), which in the implementation study break down into four general areas: production, marketing, resources and the environment, which are contained in articles 4 (purpose) and 6 (functions) of the articles of association of the Agricultural Park Consortium.
2. The **Special Plan** which, as a town planning model, delimits the geographical area of the Agricultural Park, regulates its use and defines its general infrastructures.
3. The **Management and Development Plan**, which establishes strategies, specific objectives and means of implementation for the various areas of management of the body, based on the park's overall objective and the agreement between the members of the body.



2. THE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN (MDP)

2.1 The plan

The articles of association of the Consortium establish drawing up plans as one of its functions (art. 6.1). Moreover, one of the Plenary Council's responsibilities (art. 10 f) is to approve the annual Management Plan proposal.

Obviously the Management Plan foreseen in the articles of association essentially refers to a plan that envisages actions that are immediately implemented, but it is important to draw up a plan that defines an implementation framework that is in force in the medium and long term (the Management and Development Plan).

Furthermore, the Special Plan should define an implementation programme which, once approved together with the said plan, involves the authorities in its budgets and enables them to operate in carrying out the *implementation programme*. The Management and Development Plan is another matter.

The Management and Development Plan (MDP), which was initially drawn up within the framework of the LIFE Programme, is an institutional agreement between the agents involved in the Park Consortium and aims to define the overall implementation framework from which concrete measures emerge.

A plan is a document that establishes an implementation scenario and the necessary decisions to ensure the achievement, in a specified area, of predetermined objectives.

The Special Plan (SP) and the Management and Development Plan (MDP) have the same scenario: the Agricultural Park, even though they have different characteristics regarding the aims they have defined and their areas of responsibility. The Special Plan has town planning and land use aims and its proposals are "regulatory" through law, while the MDP has managerial aims and its proposals are "indicative" and become "regulatory" solely within the context of the wishes of the members who lay them down.

Indeed, the Special Plan submitted for final approval will be developed, in the area stipulated in the document itself, via the drawing up over a maximum period of six years, of a total of six Development Guiding Plans (DGP), which refer to agricultural production, roads, water resources, social and periurban uses, as well as environmental and landscape improvement. These DGPs aim to open up a debate on how to organise the Park and how to boost consolidation of farms, based on the management that has been carried out by the Consortium, in accordance with the guidelines of the current MDP. The outcome of the DGPs should give rise, as necessary, to further special town planning modification (which at this moment in time is basically delimitation), adapting it to the new requirements agreed to, such as the new Management and Development Plan, which incorporates everything relating to management.

2.2 Management and development

Management entails making decisions and the will to implement specific objectives. Management presupposes means for development, establishment of responsibilities and reliance on resources.

Development means rendering active something latent, and fostering creation and growth.

The park's management should strive to protect its values, maintain a positive, imaginative and creative attitude and, as a result, activate the functions of the agricultural park. Values should be protected and functions developed. Of vital importance to an agricultural park (without excluding any of the others) are the economic functions developed within it, always bearing in mind, obviously, not causing damage to, and if possible improving, its productive, ecological and cultural values.



2. THE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN (MDP)

In short, the Management and Development Plan is the establishment of means of implementation and certain objectives for activating and developing the Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park.

As well as being an objectives plan, the MDP also establishes the measures that create what needs to be applied from the start of operations at the park, based on a long time frame. This plan is committed to “management” and “development”.

The MDP is also a sectoral plan, given that it operates in a specific productive sector (agriculture), although in accordance with an integral and overall perspective, by considering the area of implementation as an agricultural system (agro-ecosystem), namely a functional unity (“everything is interrelated as a whole, and at the same time”).

The MDP is also a strategic plan, given that, as it regards “development”, it projects itself towards the future by outlining implementation strategies that are subsequently realised as specific objectives and measures.

All in all, we believe that it should keep the name Management and Development Plan, even though conceptually it is also a sectoral plan, with objectives and strategies, which demonstrates the will to set up an agricultural park in Baix Llobregat.

On this basis, the Management and Development Plan of the Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park may be defined as:

A document containing the institutional agreement entered into by the agents involved in the Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park Consortium, regarding the need to set up a park based on integral management of the agricultural areas. Via an overall objective, it also gives formal expression to medium- and long-term strategies to be developed, and specific objectives that are fulfilled in the will to implement measures considered important for the park's development.

2.3 Purpose

The Management and Development Plan of the Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park basically aims to consolidate the agricultural area and enable better farm incomes by increasing the efficiency of infrastructures and general services and promoting production and marketing systems that are adapted to market needs. In order to achieve commercial viability, farms must be modernised.

This implementation must be carried out along three lines: a) in harmony with nature and open to gaining awareness of it; b) in accordance with the “partnership” criterion, namely, the Agricultural Park Consortium acts to boost economic performance via specific agreements with bodies and companies in the agricultural sector to develop initiatives that further coinciding objectives; and c) in collaboration with municipalities that are members of the Consortium, above all regarding their specific responsibilities such as many of the infrastructures and general services and town planning.

Harmony with nature translates into the will to develop sustainable agriculture, namely maintain and improve levels of production while guaranteeing the permanence of the environmental, social and economic system. Such sustainability is possible if associated with the capacity of the agricultural system (agrosystem) to recover from disturbances arising from changes in the environment with varying degrees of intensity and duration (water quality, drought, pests, soil quality, floods, etc.). Current development must not endanger future generations.



2. THE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN (MDP)

Sustainable agriculture must conserve water, soil and genetic resources, should not degrade the environment, and should also be technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable. In short, without harming resources, it should be possible to generate farming income that allows for the viability of agricultural activity.

A further vital element, which has already been mentioned, is the need for “partnership” as a kind of preferential relationship with the agricultural sector to jointly promote projects. Such willingness to coordinate on project development is a key factor for the Park Consortium, given that its objectives include: “to establish collaboration agreements with other bodies with no profit motive in mind, that basically coincide with the Consortium’s objectives” (art. 5.6), “collaborate with the competent authorities in the agricultural area” (art. 5.7) and “promote the raising, coordination and management of aid and funds from the European Union and other authorities and bodies that may grant them” (art. 4.8). In brief, as well as being an executive body for implementation, it should also act as a coordinating and driving force that promotes and boosts initiatives to be carried out by various agents.



3. STRUCTURE OF THE DOCUMENT

The MDP is organised on the basis of an overall objective, strategies and specific objectives that are realised through implementation measures. The overall objective corresponds to the definition of the Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park and, consequently, must remain “unchanged”. The strategies and specific objectives interpret and develop the overall objective, and are therefore designed to be lasting. The measures are actions to be implemented that are subject to prioritisation criteria and budget availability, which are specified in the Management Plan on an annual basis, as provided for in the Consortium’s articles of association.

Each measure has a record sheet with a description of the objectives, which helps to summarise the proposal and specify exactly what it aims to achieve. Each record sheet outlines the actions and recommendations to be implemented in order to achieve the measure’s objectives. Reflection on the “consequences of failure of application” directly results in prioritisation. Defining the agents involved and the relationship of a particular measure with others, facilitates the drawing up of strategies to implement it. Indeed, the act of filling in the records for each measure facilitates understanding and helps to establish priorities and implementing strategies.



4. OVERALL OBJECTIVE AND STRATEGIES

The overall objective of the Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park is:

To consolidate and develop the area and facilitate the continuity of agricultural activity by promoting specific programmes that enable conservation of values and development of the functions of the agricultural area within the framework of sustainable agriculture that is integrated with the surrounding area and in harmony with the natural environment.

This overall objective breaks down into five *strategies*:

1. Achieve efficiency regarding *the infrastructures and general services* of the agricultural area.
2. Promote *production and marketing* systems that foster the generation of higher farm incomes.
3. Encourage the setting up of services and the *modernisation of farms* to increase viability.
4. Achieve a *quality space* that is integrated with the surrounding area and in harmony with the natural environment.
5. Consolidate and raise awareness of the *natural and cultural heritage* of the Agricultural Park without interferences with agricultural activity.

These five strategies are further subdivided into 15 specific objectives and 49 concrete implementation measures that encompass the various proposals submitted in the general and sectoral studies previously carried out.



5. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES



5. ESPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES

Strategies

Specific objectives

1. ACHIEVE EFFICIENCY REGARDING THE INFRASTRUCTURES AND GENERAL SERVICES OF THE AGRICULTURAL AREA

- 1.1. IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ROAD NETWORK
- 1.2. IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE DRAINAGE NETWORK
- 1.3. IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF IRRIGATION WATER AND THE EFFICIENCY OF DISTRIBUTION NETWORKS
- 1.4. GUARANTEE RURAL SECURITY

2. PROMOTE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING SYSTEMS THAT FOSTER THE GENERATION OF HIGHER FARM INCOMES

- 2.1. PROMOTE THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW AGRICULTURAL TECHNIQUES, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT ARE MOST ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY
- 2.2. MAKE STOCKBREEDING MORE PROFESSIONAL TO INCREASE ITS VIABILITY, IN COMPLIANCE WITH CURRENT LEGISLATION
- 2.3. PROMOTE COOPERATION BETWEEN FARMERS TO ENHANCE PRODCUTION AND IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF COMPETITIVE MARKET ACCESS

3. ENCOURAGE THE SETTING UP OF SERVICES AND THE MODERNISATION OF FARMS TO INCREASE VIABILITY.

- 3.1. PROMOTE THE INTRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICES TO FARMING BUSINESSES THAT ENCOURAGE THE INCORPORATION OF ADDED VALUE TO THEIR PRODUCTS
- 3.2. PROMOTE REGULATIONS FOR THE AGRICULTURAL AREA THAT ENABLE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL BUSINESSES
- 3.3. SUPPORT RESTRUCTURING OF FARMS TO MEET REQUIREMENTS THAT ENABLE VIABILITY

4. ACHIEVE A QUALITY SPACE THAT IS INTEGRATED WITH THE SURROUNDING AREA AND IN HARMONY WITH THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- 4.1. IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN NATURAL AND AGRICULTURE AREAS, REDUCING THE IMPACT OF WILD ANIMALS
- 4.2. REHABILITATE DEGRADED AREAS AND TRANSFER OR ERADICATE FACILITIES THAT ARE UNCONNECTED WITH THE AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENT
- 4.3. MONITOR TOWN PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS AND KEEP A CAREFUL TRACK OF THE AGRICULTURAL PARK'S ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

5. CONSOLIDATE AND RAISE AWARENESS OF THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE AGRICULTURAL PARK WITHOUT INTERFERENCES WITH AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY

- 5.1. ORGANISE AND EQUIP THE AGRICULTURAL PARK'S PUBLIC AREAS AND ACCESS MEANS
- 5.2. PROMOTE THE AGRICULTURAL PARK'S PRODUCTIVE, ECOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL VALUES



5. ESPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES

| Strategies | Specific objectives | Measures |
|--|---|--|
| 1. ACHIEVE EFFICIENCY REGARDING THE INFRASTRUCTURES AND GENERAL SERVICES OF THE AGRICULTURAL AREA | 1.1. IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ROAD NETWORK | <p>1.1.1. Draw up a road organisation plan that establishes uses and characteristics and improves the Agricultural Park's road network</p> <p>1.1.2. Draw up a road upgrading programme to bring roads into line with the organisation plan</p> <p>1.1.3. Draw up a long-term road conservation plan</p> |
| | 1.2. IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE DRAINAGE NETWORK | <p>1.2.1. Draw up a programme of works to deal with the deficiencies in the Agricultural Park's drainage network</p> <p>1.2.2. Promote the drawing up of a long-term maintenance plan for the drainage network</p> <p>1.2.3. Promote regulations for the conservation and operability of the basic drainage network</p> <p>1.2.4. Manage relations with the Water Authorities with a view to solving problems that are generated outside the area of the Agricultural Park but which affect it</p> |
| | 1.3. IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF IRRIGATION WATER AND THE EFFICIENCY OF DISTRIBUTION NETWORKS | <p>1.3.1. Interconnect the right outflow channel systems of the Murtra water treatment plant to guarantee water supply when needed</p> <p>1.3.2. Promote modification of the current water supplies from the Infanta channel to improve the quality and distribution of irrigation water</p> <p>1.3.3. Improve outflow distribution from water treatment plants to other irrigation areas with water supply shortfalls, thereby promoting improved water quality</p> <p>1.3.4. Support the actions of irrigation associations to improve the management and fitting out of distribution networks</p> <p>1.3.5. Implement a plan to monitor irrigation water quality</p> <p>1.3.6. Manage relations with the Water Authorities regarding implementation of initiatives aimed at improving water quality</p> |
| | 1.4. GUARANTEE RURAL SECURITY | <p>1.4.1. Draw up preventive and security measures to combat robbery and theft</p> <p>1.4.2. Maintain the Agricultural Park's Security Service in coordination with various security forces and draw up a security plan</p> |



5. ESPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES

| Strategies | Specific objectives | Measures |
|---|---|--|
| 2. PROMOTE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING SYSTEMS THAT FOSTER THE GENERATION OF HIGHER FARM INCOMES | 2.1. PROMOTE THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW AGRICULTURAL TECHNIQUES, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT ARE MOST ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY | 2.1.1. Support farmers' association in disseminating integrated agricultural projects |
| | | 2.1.2. Increase the rationalisation of chemical and organic fertilisers and the use of pesticides |
| | | 2.1.3. In collaboration with the agricultural sector, authorities and scientific bodies, draw up and implement an experimentation and research plan regarding priority areas |
| | | 2.1.4. Establish a framework of relations and collaboration with ESAB to strengthen training and technology transfer |
| | 2.2. MAKE STOCKBREEDING MORE PROFESSIONAL TO INCREASE ITS VIABILITY, IN COMPLIANCE WITH CURRENT LEGISLATION | 2.2.1. Promote specific regulations for the stockbreeding facilities located in the Agricultural Park |
| | | 2.2.2. Promote restructuring and improved expertise regarding the management of farms so that they can comply with town planning, technical, health and environmental regulations and improve feasibility and adaptation to the environment |
| | | 2.2.3. Support the proposals of the feasibility plan for chickens and capons in El Prat and promote new farms |
| | 2.3. PROMOTE COOPERATION BETWEEN FARMERS TO ENHANCE PRODCUTION AND IMPROVE THE CONDITIONS OF COMPETITIVE MARKET ACCESS | 2.3.1. Support the creation and consolidation of farmers' groups in order to develop marketing programmes that provide for adjusting supply to meet demand |
| | | 2.3.2. Collaborate with producers and support integral development programmes for high-quality, traditional, agricultural and livestock products |
| 2.3.3. Create and promote a "Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park fresh product" label to enhance and publicise Agricultural Park products | | |



5. ESPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES

| Strategies | Specific objectives | Measures |
|---|--|---|
| 3. ENCOURAGE THE SETTING UP OF SERVICES AND THE MODERNISATION OF FARMS TO INCREASE VIABILITY | 3.1. PROMOTE THE INTRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICES TO FARMING BUSINESSES THAT ENCOURAGE THE INCORPORATION OF ADDED VALUE TO THEIR PRODUCTS | 3.1.1. Set up common services for farmers' groups regarding standardisation, post-harvest processing and conservation and delivery of agricultural products 3.1.2. Promote the setting up of an office to provide a marketing support service (price monitoring, market research, marketing, etc.) to farmers and stockbreeders based on efficiency and self-financing criteria 3.1.3. Develop equipment areas in the Agricultural Park (Agrocentres) that enable concentration of public authorities and common farmers' services (product standardisation centre, parking areas for farm machinery, packing centres, etc.) |
| | 3.2. PROMOTE REGULATIONS FOR THE AGRICULTURAL AREA THAT ENABLE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL BUSINESSES | 3.2.1. Promote compliance with town planning regulations and the new requirements for farms regarding the building of temporary structures and agricultural facilities |
| | 3.3. SUPPORT RESTRUCTURING OF FARMS TO MEET REQUIREMENTS THAT ENABLE VIABILITY | 3.3.1. Promote mechanisms for relations between buyers, sellers, lessors and lessees of agricultural land, in order to improve the restructuring of farms 3.3.2. Support the concentration of private smallholders and seek to reduce the impact of compulsory purchases for infrastructure development purposes |



5. ESPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES

| Strategies | Specific objectives | Measures |
|--|--|--|
| 4. ACHIEVE A QUALITY SPACE THAT IS INTEGRATED WITH THE SURROUNDING AREA AND IN HARMONY WITH THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT | 4.1. IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN NATURAL AND AGRICULTURE AREAS, REDUCING THE IMPACT OF WILD ANIMALS | 4.1.1. Ensure that the nature conservation areas of the Llobregat delta adopt measures to minimise the impact of wild animals on agricultural activity in these areas 4.1.2. Collaborate with the Generalitat de Catalunya (autonomous government of Catalonia) on the professional management of wild animals in those areas not included in the nature conservation areas in order to minimise their negative impact on agricultural activity 4.1.3. Strengthen agricultural practices in strategic areas to prevent wild animals from damaging crops |
| | 4.2. REHABILITATE DEGRADED AREAS AND TRANSFER OR ERADICATE INSTALLATIONS THAT ARE UNCONNECTED WITH THE AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENT | 4.2.1. Draw up and implement plans for rehabilitating degraded areas in order to re-establish their potential 4.2.2. Determine the administrative situation of existing facilities in the Agricultural Park that are unconnected with farming and draw up a plan to transfer or eliminate them 4.2.3. Eliminate illegal household vegetable gardens and set aside segregated parts of the agricultural area for this activity |
| | 4.3. MONITOR TOWN PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS AND KEEP A CAREFUL TRACK OF THE AGRICULTURAL PARK'S ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY | 4.3.1. Establish agreements with the competent authorities to determine mechanisms for relations with the Agricultural Park Consortium regarding town planning and environmental infringements noted by the security service 4.3.2. Draw up and implement a plan for managing agricultural waste 4.3.3. Elaborar y aplicar un plan de gestión de residuos agrícolas 4.3.4. Implement a programme to monitor environmental quality in the Agricultural Park, by establishing quality indicators 4.3.5. Support the rehabilitation of existing traditional buildings in the Agricultural Park |



5. ESPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES

| Strategies | Specific objectives | Measures |
|--|--|---|
| 5. CONSOLIDATE AND RAISE AWARENESS OF THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE AGRICULTURAL PARK WITHOUT INTERFERENCES WITH AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY | 5.1. ORGANISE AND EQUIP THE AGRICULTURAL PARK'S PUBLIC AREAS AND ACCESS MEANS | 5.1.1. Draw up a plan to equip public areas, natural and otherwise, including access means, without interference with agricultural activity in the area 5.1.2. Adequately signpost roads and public areas and indicate permitted uses, restrictions and any other relevant information |
| | 5.2. PROMOTE THE AGRICULTURAL PARK'S PRODUCTIVE, ECOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL VALUES | 5.2.1. Create multimedia material, publications, exhibitions, etc. about the Agricultural Park 5.2.2. Promote research and publicity initiatives regarding the agricultural area and activity 5.2.3. Strengthen services regarding the publicising of Park products and agricultural activity 5.2.4. Set up an information centre for teaching and promotion activities regarding the Agricultural Park 5.2.5. Develop teaching programmes on the agricultural area and its activities |

