English below

Kieku l-Ikel Jitkellem

Festival tal-kummerċ ġust nhar is-Sibt, 9 ta' Mejju

Mijiet ta' prodotti ġusti tal-ikel u l-artiġjanat mill-Amerika Latina, l-Asja u l-Afrika, flimkien ma' prodotti tal-biedja Maltija, fosthom frott u ħaxix organiku frisk u ppreservat, se jkunu għall-bejgħ nhar is-Sibt, 9 ta' Mejju, mill-10.00am sal-10.00pm waqt il-festival organizzat mill-voluntiera tal-Koperattiva Kummerċ Ġust (KKĠ), WorldFest, fi Ġnien l-Indipendenza (l-Exiles), Tas-Sliema. Mal-KKĠ se jieħdu sehem ukoll bosta għaqdiet Maltin li huma impenjati favur ikel iktar bnin u ġust mal-ħaddiema u l-konsumaturi u mal-ambjent naturali. Id-dħul għal dan il-festival huwa b'xejn.

F'din it-tmien edizzjoni ta' dan il-festival annwali li jiċċelebra l-Jum Dinji tal-Kummerċ Ġust, se jkun hemm ikel għall-bejgħ minn Malta, l-Eritrea, is-Somalja u l-Palestina u xorb tal-kummerċ ġust; żewġ diskussjonijiet pubbliċi bis-sehem ta' kelliema minn Malta, Għawdex, l-Italja u l-Belġju, attivitajiet kreattivi għat-tfal, u kunċert ta' letteratura u mużika ġdida u impenjata li jibda fit-8.00pm. Id-dħul għall-attivitajiet kollha huwa b'xejn.

L-attivitajiet għat-tfal, li jinkludu tpinġija u crafts għal dawk ta' bejn 7 u 10 snin, qari ta' stejjer, u sessjoni mmexxija minn Food First Malta li fiha t-tfal jiżirgħu pjanti organiċi, se jsiru bejn il-11.00am u s-1.30pm u mbagħad bejn il-5.00pm u s-6.30pm.

Fil-5.00pm Friends of the Earth, Malta se jagħmlu preżentazzjoni dwar "Fuelling or Fooling Europe?" li fiha se jiffokaw fuq il-kwistjoni tat-tkabbir ta' prodotti agrikoli għall-ġenerazzjoni tal-enerġija minflok għall-ikel. Imbagħad fis-6.00pm jibda l-ewwel forum pubbliku, bl-Ingliż, bl-isem ta' "If food could speak," immexxi minn William Grech. F'dan il-forum se jitkellmu Riccardo Franciolini (mill-Italja), li studja l-agrikoltura fil-gżejjer Mediterranji ta' Elba, Ibiża u Malta; Eric Van Monckhoven, ekoloġista u konsulent Belġjan li jgħix l-Italja li se jitkellem dwar "Healthy Food;" il-Professur tal-Istorja Carmel Cassar li jieħu ħsieb il-moviment Slow Food Malta; l-edukatur Vince Caruana minn Food First Malta, u l-attivista Victor Galea mill-Ager Foundation ta' Għawdex.

Fis-7.00pm jibda t-tieni forum pubbliku li se jkun bil-Malti u se jitmexxa mis-soċjologa Anna Zammit. Il-kelliema mistiedna huma Angele Deguara mill-Koperattiva Kummerċ Ġust; Patri Ġwann Xerri OP; Joe Galea, President tal-Koperattiva Rurali Manikata; l-Onor. Evarist Bartolo, mill-PL, li se jitkellem dwar il-problema tal-obeżità f'Malta u s-soċjetà li tippromwovi stil ta' ħajja mhux tajjeb; il-Perit Carmel Cacopardo, AD, li se jitkellem dwar l-ikel u s-sostenibbiltà; l-Onor. Philip Mifsud, PN; u Clement Azzopardi, mill-Għaqda tal-Produtturi Gomriża.

Il-bejgħ tal-ikel minn Malta u pajjiżi oħrajn li se jissajjar apposta għall-WorldFest jibda fis-7.00pm. Il-Koperattiva Rurali Manikata (KRM) se tkun qed tbigħ qassatat b'ingredjenti Maltin u bir-ross tal-Kummerċ Ġust, waqt li The Arab Culture Information Society se tbigħ ikel Palestinjan bil-kuskus tal-Kummerċ Ġust. Fil-WorldFest se jkun hemm għall-bejgħ ukoll ġamm tal-lumi, magħmul minn lumi organiku Malti u zokkor organiku tal-Kummerċ Ġust mill-Ekwador, prodott li jlaqqa' flimkien il-biedja sostenibbli lokali u globali.

Il-kunċert jibda fit-8.00 ta' filgħaxija. Minbarra l-kittieba Maltin, fosthom Annalise Falzon, Adrian Grima, Immanuel Mifsud, u Walid Nabhan, u l-poeta u editur ewlieni Amerikan li jgħix l-Irlanda ta' Fuq, Chris Agee, se jieħdu sehem il-mużiċisti Antoine Vella, Andrew Christie u Danjeli, u l-grupp, ismu miegħu, Brikkuni, li miegħu se jkanta għall-ewwel darba l-kantant Sudaniż Mohammed Ahmed Rahmatalla. Skont Immanuel Mifsud, "Il-Brikkuni huma combo ta' mużiċisti li jafu l-istrument sew, mhux biss għax jafu jdoqquh, imma għax jafu jikkomponu għalih, jafu jagħmluh jitkellem, jikkomunika mas-semmiegħa. Il-mużika tagħhom tixhed li huma grupp ta' artisti eklettiċi ħafna." Huma "artisti li l-brikkunati tagħhom, ħafna drabi irreverenti ħafna, jagħmluhom bi bravuri kbar."

Fil-kunċert tal-WorldFest se jitnieda wkoll ktieb ġdid, editjat minn Adrian Grima u ppubblikat minn Inizjamed, bl-isem ta' *Kieku l-Ikel Jitkellem*, li se jkun fih kitbiet ta' awturi mill-ġenerazzjoni l-ġdida tal-letteratura Maltija u analiżi magħmula minn bdiewa, soċjoloġi, politiċi, attivisti, filosfu, antropologa u storiku, u edukaturi.

L-għaqdiet li qed jaħdmu bi sħab mal-voluntiera tal-Koperattiva Kummerċ Ġust u l-ħanut tagħha L-Arka biex issir il-WorldFest huma Food First Malta, Friends of the Earth, Gaia Foundation, Għaqda tal-Produtturi Gomriża, Global Action Schools, Grupp għat-Tielet Dinja, Inizjamed, Koperattiva Rurali Manikata, Moviment Graffitti, Slow Food Malta, u The Arabic Culture Information Society.

Il-festival WorldFest – Kieku l-Ikel Jitkellem, ispirat mill-proġett internazzjonali Enlarging Fair ikkoordinat f'Malta minn Angele Deguara u Nathalie Grima, qed jittella' bil-għajnuna tal-proġett *Fresh Minds for a New World* tal-programm Żgħażagħ tal-Unjoni Ewropea u l-Kunsill Lokali ta' Tas-Sliema.

Il-programm sħiħ tal-attivitajiet tal-WorldFest u tagħrif interessanti dwar it-temi ta' dan il-proġett tal-ikel jinsabu fuq www.l-ikel.org u www.l-arka.org.

Adrian Grima

Picture above: Cocoa farmer (Thanks to CTM-Altromercato)

If Food Could Speak

WorldFest on Saturday, 9th May

Hundreds of food products and unique handmade crafts from Fair Trade producers in small communities in Asia, Africa and Latin America, together with locally grown fruit and vegetables, some of which are organic, will be on sale during the eighth edition of WorldFest on Saturday, 9th May at Ġnien l-Indipendenza in Sliema between 10.00am and 10.00pm. Entrance to all events is free of charge.

The theme chosen for this year's WorldFest, which coincides with World Fair Trade Day, is "Kieku l-Ikel Jitkellem – The Right to Food." The events include morning and afternoon seed planting sessions and creative activities for children; two public fora with Maltese, Gozitan and speakers from Italy and Belgium; the launching of a book of new literature and essays on food by activists and experts; and a presentation on agro-fuels.

The concert that starts at 8.00pm features new Maltese literature about food by writers such as Immanuel Mifsud, Walid Nabhan, Annalise Falzon and Adrian Grima, and a reading by the established American-Irish poet Chris Agee. Live eclectic music will be played by Antoine Vella and Andrew Christie, Danjeli, and by the unlikely and irreverent folk ensemble of the moment, Brikkuni, who will be joined for the first time by Sudanese singer Mohammed Ahmed Rahmatalla.

WorldFest is organised by the volunteers of the Maltese fair trade cooperative, Koperattiva Kummerċ Ġust (KKĠ), in collaboration with other Maltese organizations that are active in favour of global justice, local agricultural sustainability and food sovereignty, and with the support of the Sliema Local Council.

This year's WorldFest deals mainly with the topical issue of food sovereignty, which is essentially about empowering both producers at a local level and in global South, and consumers everywhere. "The best way to arrive at a balanced, just and sustainable food system is to have a democratic conversation about it. The power should be in our hands, and all too often it isn't." According to Raj Patel, "the way our food comes to us has been shaped by corporations and governments, international institutions and oligarchs," and it doesn't feel like we have much of a say in the larger debate.

Activities for Children, Public Fora, Music and Food

Storytelling and crafts for children from 7-10 yrs will be held between 11.00am and 12.30pm and again from 5.00pm to 6.30pm. Children will have organic seed planting sessions by Food First Malta starting at 1.00pm and 6.00pm. Friends of the Earth

Malta will make a presentation for the general public on agrofuels, "Fuelling or Fooling Europe?" that starts at 5.00pm.

The first public forum, at 6.00pm, "If food could speak," will be held in English and chaired by William Grech. The speakers are Riccardo Franciolini (Italy), Eric Van Monckhoven (Belgium, Italy), Prof. Carmel Cassar (Slow Food Malta), Vince Caruana (University lecturer), and Victor Galea (Ager Foundation, Gozo).

The second forum that starts at 7.00pm will be in Maltese and chaired by sociologist Anna Zammit. The speakers are Fra Ġwann Xerri OP, sociologist Angele Deguara (Koperattiva Kummerċ Ġust), Joe Galea (Koperattiva Rurali Manikata), Evarist Bartolo (PL), Carmel Cacopardo (AD), Philip Mifsud (PN) and Clement Azzopardi (Għaqda tal-Produtturi Gomriża).

Typical dishes from Malta, Palestine, Eritrea and Somalia, with Fair Trade ingredients and local fruit and vegetables, will be on sale as from 7.00pm. Nathalie Grima from KKĠ believes that "By choosing local produce and Fair Trade products, we believe that we can make a difference in the way global economic, environmental and trade situations are addressed."

Collaborating organisations in Worldfest are Food First Malta, Friends of the Earth, Gaia Foundation, Għaqda tal-Produtturi Gomriża, Global Action Schools, Moviment Graffitti, Inizjamed, Manikata Farmers' Cooperative, Slow Food Malta, The Arabic Culture Information Society and Third World Group.

WorldFest is co-funded by the Youth Action Programme and the Enlarging Fair EU project.

For the full programme of events throughout the day visit www.l-arka.org or www.l-ikel.org.

Adrian Grima

Picture above: Producer in Palestine working with PARC (Thanks to CTM-Altromercato)