

Irei abordar o tema de Urbanismo e Mobilidade nas áreas de Cultura, Língua e Comunicação (CLC) e Sociedade, Tecnologia e Ciências (STC). Apresentarei este trabalho em língua Inglesa, de forma a cumprir com o referencial que pressupõe a elaboração de um trabalho em língua estrangeira. Optei pela língua Inglesa porque esta é mais facilmente entendida por todas as pessoas a participar neste projecto.

I will refer to a project which I had initially planned to operate in Loulé, more specifically in Vale Telheiro. It's a little place up in the hills very close to Loulé. The project was elaborated in order to recover an old typical Algarvian farmhouse, which is more than 100 years old, and run it as a holiday unit according to the local standards to be considered as a “Turismo Rural”, meaning that it provides accommodation in an rural and countryside ambience giving the opportunity to holidaymakers to get to know the unspoiled Algarve, it's customs, traditions and the way that farmers used to work the land. All this will be presented in accordance with the requirements of this theme.

### **Quinta do Vale**



*Quinta do Vale*



*Orange Tree*



*Almond Tree & Almonds*

As I'm professionally linked to the tourism industry I can truly say that people do seek alternative accommodation as well as different holiday experiences. Ever since I have worked in the Hotel Industry, people have been coming to the Algarve to enjoy the sea and fantastic beaches. As a direct impact of this quest is the fact that our coastline has been under a constant irrational building process which has completely changed the way the Algarve used to be. Another direct consequence is that younger local people have left the inland to seek for job opportunities in the coastal cities, leaving the Algarvian inland deserted.

Thinking of all this and knowing that the Algarve has much more to offer than beaches and luxury hotels, I planned ahead and intended to take advantage of the fantastic location, marvellous people and traditions where I live. So we started with figuring out what we had to offer.



**Carob Tree & Dry Carobs**



**Olives on Tree**



**Fig Tree**

In a typical countryside farm which originally was dedicated to a agriculture of subsistence, producing everything needed in the household. This still continues as there are plenty of almond, carob, olive, fig, orange, peach, lemon and pear trees, among many others. As we have more land with olive, almond and carob trees belonging to the family there is a lot to do when its harvest season. Using almonds to produce the typical almond sweets, carob's to feed the animals (there used to be a donkey and some lambs) and pressing olive oil out of our olives, there is always a lot to do using traditional producing methods and obtaining natural and hand made products.

In the main building is an ancient wood oven which is regularly used to bake bread, figs (filled with almonds or simple) and food. All this would be make available to those who stayed with us. There would have been not only the chance of providing holiday experience in a different place, but also a way of creating job opportunities, for local people, where there are none. From farmers to bakers, from maids to receptionists, from cooks to gardeners, these are all real opportunities which could have been created. These would fit perfectly into this kind of ambience giving local people the chance to keep on using their experience in their usual context.

Another aim was to make all these experiences available, not only for those who stay at the Quinta, but also to anyone who would be interested in learning traditions and knowing how things are made and produced using the ancient ways of producing. Another target market was children. The intention was an educational one. Inviting children to celebrate their birthdays in “Quinta do Vale” and teaching traditional games. While they play, they learn very easily and are receive cultural enrichment without even noticing. One other intention was inviting school classes to experience one day in the hills learning of its fauna and flora.

In the end all of this did not work. The initial project was approved by all authorities involved. The only thing needed was investment. We applied to EC investment and we were given all authorization needed. At the time of getting the investment requirement ready, our former prime minister left our government and all EC investments were stopped. And so did our project.

With our project getting to an end, we decided to sell some land and to renew the old Farmhouse and turned it into 4 apartments. Then we built a swimming pool and the access to the Quinta. We started to rent these apartments as Holiday accommodation. It was a once in a lifetime experience which just reinforced my opinion that there is a lot that can be done in order to bring back life, people and business into Algarve's inland. We had guests of several nationalities, such as British, German, Portuguese, Canadian and many more. They were really impressed of the beauty and variety of all that existed. They learned of harvesting, planting and cooking. They even baked their own bread and pressed their own olive oil, after harvesting the olives. When they say things like: “Now we will be able to give the proper value to a bottle of olive oil that we just take off the shelf in the supermarket. We never imagined the hard work behind a bottle of Olive Oil.” And when they proudly present the bottle saying: “This was made by me, starting from the harvest to the final product”.

The real interest and enrichment of all of this is that interacting with people from all over the world, one is learning and exchanging cultural information and opinions in such a natural way that makes learning so easy. For example, my kids did not speak any other language than Portuguese, but after playing with kids staying in the Quinta, they use their own way of communicating with each other, spending day after day playing and communicating with gestures, expressions and with their hand and feet. In this process they are learning some words as well as teaching others. I thought that this would be a project with interest for the local administration, once that we are preserving the origins and traditions.

In a more technical order, this particular region consists mainly of unirrigated or dry arable land and the agriculture is adequate to this specification. The main productions consist of almonds, carob, fig and olives. These are trees that do not need much water and no chemical treatment as these are very robust trees with no pests. In order to be able to harvest these trees in perfect condition, all that is needed is to use the farm tractor and some implements such as a plough or discs to remove brambles or thorny bushes from under the tree. This is to have the land under them clear to easily pick the fruits when they are beaten from the tree. Another necessary equipment is a large fine-meshed net. This is used to be spread under the tree and when the fruit fall down into the net, all you need to do is to remove the leaves and you have your fruit harvested.

But some of the trees do need some sort of preventive treatment, and here I will refer to our orange trees. These do need a specific treatment as this is a tree that suffers of many pests and being the main one the Mediterranean fruit fly (*ceratitis capitata*). Mediterranean fruit flies are one of the world's most destructive insect pests. They originated in sub-Saharan Africa. They were first discovered in the United



*Mediterranean Fruit Fly*

States in the Hawaiian Islands in 1910. They attack more than 250 kinds of fruits, nuts and vegetables, many of which grow in home gardens and orchards. With an abundant supply of host fruit in which to lay its eggs, the Medfly multiplied rapidly, seriously reducing the yield and quality of fruits. The adult female medfly damages ripe fruit by making a hole and depositing her eggs under the skin of the fruit. Once the larvae hatch, they satisfy their ravenous appetites by feeding on the pulp inside the fruit, rendering it unfit for human consumption.

There are two ways of treatment, the chemical and the natural. The chemical treatment normally consists in an application of chemicals such as *Lebacyd*. This is a foliar insecticide and its mode of action is Acetylcholine esterase inhibitor and used for crops like citrus, olives, rice and stone fruits. There are two formulation categories for this product, Emulsifiable concentrate and Granule. This treatment should be used for two weeks but not be applied more than 4 times.



*Fly Trap*

The natural or non chemical way consists in using fly traps. The plastic container includes a wick impregnated with a sex attractant combined with an organic insecticide (ex. neem oil) that kills the flies. Male flies are attracted from up to 500 m away for up to 6 months.

## **CONCLUSÃO**

A elaboração deste trabalho foi, de alguma forma, custoso. Não pela dificuldade sentida na obtenção de dados relativamente a pesticidas, mas mais pelo facto de me fazer recordar um projecto que visava não só a minha independência mas também a manutenção de tradições e praticas rurais em vias de extinção. Poderia também contribuir, embora em escala mais pequena, para a criação de emprego e consequentemente combatia a desertificação do interior serrano. Julgo que consegui focar os aspectos mais relevantes abordando os temas propostos. Como referi anteriormente, a principal dificuldade foi conseguir elementos de um pesticida ou insecticida utilizado no tratamento de pragas já que a grande maioria foi proibida e estão a ser encontradas formas de tratamento alternativas e biológicas. Escolhi a língua inglesa porque efectivamente é uma língua que praticamente todos entendem e facilmente assimilaram a informação contida no trabalho.