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SLOW FOOD

NETWORK

BIODIVERSITY

LOCAL ECONOMY

PLEASURE



TRADITION

## THE FLOW OF WORDS

The year we describe here does not follow the rhythm of the days or the passing of the months or the succession of the seasons. The year we speak of has a flow of its own. Of insights and observations, of the actions that give life to the Slow Food galaxy.

And also of words, five words. Network, biodiversity, local economy, pleasure, tradition. You find them here in theoretical reflections—philosophical, economic, scientific—in accounts of real-life events and stories of specific projects. They are spoken by people who play an active part in the Slow Food association, and have done for years, and people who support it with their own authoritative contribution of ideas and competences.

Our five words clash with the three letters of an acronym: OGM, Genetically Modified Organisms. The battle against transgenic crops and foods is one of the ambits to which the Slow Food devotes most political and civil commitment. Here it is addressed through national analyses which, read together, evidence contradictions and dangers, expose logics and interests and unmask rhetoric. As evidence is backed up by data, so perplexities turn to protest.

Network, biodiversity, local economy, pleasure and tradition.

Five words that are also stifled. In the cries of alarm of those who denounce the emergencies of the planet and the world of food: rights denied, the devastating effects of globalization, the market economy at local level.

The pages of this book conclude on these *thoughts*.

The *words*, instead, continue to be spoken.

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