

### The 6<sup>th</sup> Villarceaux Declaration :

Our food system, the path that food travels from origin to our bodies and beyond, is incredibly complex. From farmers and harvesters to trucks and grocery stores, chefs and plates to compost bins and landfills, the food we eat touches many hands. We, as the new labour force, recognize that global food choices impact our collective future. Yet, conditions favour convenience over health and profit over people, threatening generations to come.

Facing this reality, mobility is our solution. Mobility is vital to develop a food paradigm where all generations and sectors can engage with and influence the food system. It is a flexible mindset and attitude that advances changes in habitat, dynamism of youth, adaptability in labour, and responsive solutions within institutions.

#### Changes in Habitat

Our generation is experiencing dramatic shifts in climate change, waste of natural resources and pressures over ecosystem services. Sustainability is the new way of thinking on a global scale. We are influential in conveying this message and to integrate it into our daily actions and decisions.

New economies and labour needs are emerging as a consequence of the rapid growth of cities towards the countryside. Multifunctionality, alternative food networks, and other innovations reinforce connections between farmers and consumers.

Our vision for the planet entails considering a new paradigm. We want agriculture to be a driver for sustainable landscapes and fair employment. Around the world, innovative agro-ecological farmers increasingly challenge the dominant industrial way of farming, combining local and scientific knowledge, putting resilient thinking into practice to feed growing populations and coping with climate change, water scarcity, market volatility and lack of workers' rights.

Assisting these trends while considering city and surrounding agricultural areas as part of the same territorial system is necessary to strengthen communities in a balanced, renewed relationship.

#### Dynamism of Youth

Youth is a definite time in life but also a state of mind. Throughout the transition from childhood to later in life, youth embody curiosity, enthusiasm, open-mindedness and creativity.

A sense of energy drives us as youth to discover who we will become. Yet, labour issues emerge from a misunderstanding of expectations between youth and the market. On the part of youth, this leads to disillusionment as our ideals are placed in tension with reality.

While this may cause us to lose hope, we instead choose to be proactive. We are mindful of our responsibility to consider causes and consequences as we move toward long term solutions. As catalysts and translators, we explore integrated strategies, execute technological solutions and establish best



practices to improve our currently segmented yet ever changing food system. By working in this new way, we invest in our collective future.

#### Adaptability in Labour

Labour is the work that we do and contribution that we make to the world around us. We consider labour in its diversity across sectors and from all aspects. A gap between education and the market contributes to job instability. In a world fueled by indefinite growth, labour becomes complex when employment is unstable.

Throughout the whole food system, all actors should be revalued in their contribution to the food procurement of the global population. We strongly support a system in which the price of food includes the impact on health and environment and involves a shared responsibility to take care of natural resources and workers' rights. Indicators of a healthy labour system include dignity, fair wages, equity (i.e. gender and racial) and well-being. Mobility will allow us to be empathetic as we redefine the capacity of labour so that the diversity of youth can enter the market.

#### Responsive Solutions within Institutions

Institutions must work collaboratively with citizens to inspire confidence and trust. This will yield solutions that are transparent and mutually beneficial. A holistic approach unites institutional levels and optimizes youth potential to participate in a thriving economy.

Education is key to maintaining a sustainable global workforce. Social and emotional learning increases youth engagement. We desire accessible, affordable, innovative experiences based on intercultural and intergenerational approaches. Mobility amplifies connection and personal growth. Additionally, physical mobility through informal and formal education models that emphasize skills training will generate employment opportunities.

We need a participatory approach for developing policies that support the food system. **Process and implementation must involve all stakeholders and consider our planet in order to plan for long-term sustainability.** Together, we will establish institutionalized networks and organize community spaces where a variety of voices will influence policy-making. Territorial policies produce systemic change and move us towards a future where all levels of governance are synergistic.

Mobility is essential in creating opportunity, innovation and equity for the future of youth, labour, and our global food system.

La Bergerie de Villarceaux 07/08/2018



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Together to share a new vision of public food services



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