



ITALY

TERRA AMARA

©Gabriele Guida
parallelozero



SAN SEVERO, FOGGIA,
AN AERIAL VIEW OF THE GRAN GHETTO NEAR SAN SEVERO.
DURING THE TOMATOES HARVEST TIME THIS PLACE HOSTS MORE THAN A THOUSAND PEOPLE,



FRESHLY PICKED TOMATOES IN THE PALAZZO SAN GERVASIO AREA.
PALAZZO SAN GERVASIO, POTENZA, ITALY.

FOREIGN WORKERS IN THE ITALIAN FIELDS ARE SEEING HARD TIMES FOR THEIR RIGHTS.

COUNTING BOTH REGULAR AND IRREGULAR SITUATIONS, ITALIAN AGRICULTURE IS NOWADAYS EMPLOYING AROUND 400,000 FOREIGN WORKERS. MOST OF THEM COME FROM WESTERN AFRICA, AFTER FACING A TRIP MONTHS, IF NOT YEARS, LONG AND DREADFUL EXPERIENCES: WHILE CROSSING THE DESERT AND THEN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA MANY OF THEM LOST SOME FRIENDS OR SOMEONE OF THEIR FAMILY. THEY LIVE IN ITALY FROM TEN YEARS BY NOW, HAVING A REGULAR PERMISSION TO STAY BECAUSE, BEFORE THE CRISIS HIT THE COUNTRY, THEY WERE HIRED BY NORTH ITALY FACTORIES. MANY OF THEM LIVE IN GHETTOS: INSECURE, SELF-MANAGED AND SELF-SUFFICIENT ACCOMODATIONS OFFERING SEVERAL ACTIVITIES, FROM THE CONVENIENCE STORE TO THE BUTCHER, FROM TV ROOMS TO ROOMS WHERE PROSTITUTES CAN WORK, AND COIFFEURS, BIKE MECHANICS AND PLACES OF WORSHIP. OTHER WORKERS COME FROM THE MAGHREB REGION, OR FROM THE BALKAN STATES, AND ARE IN ITALY SINCE THE 90'S OF LAST CENTURY. THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE IN WAGES AMONG WORKERS FROM AFRICA OR FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, IN THE ITALIAN AGRICULTURE, AND A SIGNED AGREEMENT DOESN'T MEAN BETTER CONDITIONS OR SAFEGUARDS. A KIND OF GREY MARKET IS MORE AND MORE PRESENT, AS DENOUNCED BY MEDU IN THE TERRA INGIUSTA (UNFAIR LAND) REPORT AND BY UNION FLAI CGIL WITH ITS REPORTS AGROMAFIE AND CAPORALATO. ON AVERAGE, IN THE VARIOUS HARVESTS, THE WAGE FOR THE FOREIGN WORKERS VARY IN A RANGE BETWEEN 22 AND 30 EUROS. THE GREY MARKET IS A CLOSE FRIEND OF CAPORALATO, A GANGMASTER SYSTEM WITH DEEP ROOTS IN ITALIAN AGRICULTURE. EVERY REGION HAS ITS OWN FORM OF CAPORALATO, BUT IT TENDS TO BE REPLACED BY A SORT OF "ETHNIC SYSTEM": THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FARMERS AND WORKERS IS MANAGED DIRECTLY BY THE FOREIGN WORKERS PRESENT IN THE AREA FOR THE LONGEST TIME, AND THIS ALREADY LED TO SOME CASES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING. FOR EVERY KIND OF JOB IN THE FIELDS, THE WHOLE COUNTRY IS TROUBLED WITH SEVERE RIGHTS LIMITATIONS. MORE: THERE ARE SEASONAL FLOWS FOLLOWING THE DIFFERENT TIMES OF HARVESTING: FROM CALABRIA TO PUGLIA, THEN TO CAMPANIA OR TO NORTH, TO GO BACK TO SOUTH AGAIN – EVERY YEAR.

*THIS REPORTAGE AIMS TO TELL A YEAR OF AGRICULTURE IN ITALY FOLLOWING THE LIFE OF THE WORKERS
IN THE DIFFERENT HARVESTING AREAS AND THEIR FLOWS.*

THE SITUATION HAS BEEN DENOUNCED SEVERAL TIMES, BUT THESE WORKERS ARE STILL HIGHLY AT RISK.

WORKERS PICKING ARTICHOKE NEAR EBOLI.
THEY'RE REGULARLY HIRED BECAUSE IN THAT AREA THEY CAN WORK ALL YEAR LONG,
BUT THEY EARN JUST 25-30 EUROS FOR A WORKDAY 10/12 HOURS LONG.
SANTA CECILIA DI EBOLI, SALERNO, ITALY.





ISMAEL, REGULARLY HIRED, LOADING ORANGES CRATES FOR THE COOPERATIVE "I FRUTTI DEL SOLE". ESTABLISHED IN 2005, THE COOPERATIVE GATHERS LITTLE FARMERS AND OPERATES IN THE CERTIFIED ORGANIC PRODUCTION CHAIN. ROSARNO, REGGIO CALABRIA, ITALY.



JACOB, 29 YO, FROM GHANA, LINE-DRYING HIS LAUNDRY ON THE NET
DELIMITING THE BOUNDARY OF THE CAMPO CONTAINER OF ROSARNO.
CREATED IN 2011, THIS CAMP HOSTS PEOPLE FOR ALMOST THE DOUBLE OF ITS CAPACITY.
CAMPO CONTAINER OF ROSARNO, REGGIO CALABRIA, ITALY.

SOULEYMANE, 30 YO, FROM MALI, IN THE OUTLET OF THE "FABBRICHETTA".
HE LIVES HERE, HE'S REGULARLY EMPLOYED BY THE COOPERATIVE "I FRUTTI DEL SOLE".
WITH HIS WAGE HE MANTAINS HIS FAMILY IN AFRICA.
SAN FERDINANDO, REGGIO CALABRIA, ITALY.





ARTICHOKES JUST PICKED NEAR EBOLI:
THEY'RE A TOP PRODUCT OF THE PIANA DEL SELE,
SANTA CECILIA DI EBOLI, SALERNO, ITALY.



YOUNG MEN WORKING IN CUNEO'S PROVINCE AGRICULTURE GOING TO THE SLEEPING ACCOMODATION THEY'VE BEEN ASSIGNED. THIS REGION, AND CARITAS' HOUSE, OFFERS BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS THAN THE REST OF ITALY. SALUZZO, CUNEO, ITALY.

ASSAM, 58 YO, FROM SENEGAL, DURING AN ORANGE PICKING IN CALABRIA.
THIS WORK IS MAINLY DONE BY AFRICAN WORKERS, PAID ABOUT 25 EUROS
PER DAY OR 0.50 EUROCENT FOR A 30 KG CRATES OF ORANGES.
ROSARNO, REGGIO CALABRIA, ITALY.



TAKING CARE OF LITTLE PLANTS OF ARTICHOKE IN THE COOPERATIVE
OF THE CONSORZIO MARISTEMA, LEADER IN EUROPE FOR IN VITRO CULTIVATION.
SANTA CECILIA DI EBOLI, SALERNO, ITALY.



SOULEYMANE, 30 YO, FROM MALI, PICKING UP TOMATOES.
AFTER A SEASON IN ROSARNO, HE MOVED FOR THE HARVEST IN BASILICATA.
HE EARNS FROM 3 TO 4 EUROS FOR EVERY 300 KG CRATE DELIVERED.
PALAZZO SAN GERVASIO, POTENZA, ITALY.



EMMANUEL, 29 YO, AND A FRIEND - BOTH FROM GHANA - DURING A BREAK IN
THEIR SLEEPING ACCOMODATION IN THE CAMPO CONTAINER OF ROSARNO. CREATED
IN 2011 FOR THE ORANGES HARVEST, IT HOSTS 200 PEOPLE BUT IT WAS BUILT FOR 100.
CAMPO CONTAINER OF ROSARNO, REGGIO CALABRIA, ITALY.





BERGAMI SERCIO
AZ. AGRICOLA TERNICIA

COOP PRIMULA

AGRO CIRCE
2000 E

AGRO CIRCE
2000 E

NATURA PIU
TERRACINA (LT) Tel. 0773.122013

AGRO CIRCE
2000 E

DA.MA.96

CRATES OF COURGETTES FRESHLY PICKED UP IN THE LATINA AREA, LATINA, ITALY.

AN EMPLOYEE IN THE WAREHOUSE WAITING FOR THE GANGMASTER.
IN THE PIANA DEL SELE THE GANGMASTER IS THE PERSON WHO "JUST OFFERS" A RETURN
TRANSPORT SERVICE FOR 3 EUROS AND PUT IN TOUCH THE WORKERS WITH THE FARMERS.
CAMPOLONGO, SALERNO, ITALY.





A WORKER HARVESTING SPINACH. IN THE PIANA DEL SELE WORKERS ARE REGULARLY HIRED BECAUSE IN THAT AREA THEY CAN WORK ALL YEAR LONG, BUT THEY EARN JUST 25-30 EUROS FOR A WORKDAY 10/12 HOURS LONG. SANTA LUCIA, SALERNO, ITALY.



WORKERS PICKING PEACHES IN THE SALUZZO AREA. THE MINIMUM WAGE PROVIDED BY THE COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT IS AROUND 45 EUROS PER DAY PLUS ALL CONTRIBUTIONS PAID, BUT PEACHES PRODUCTION COSTS ONLY 0.124 EUROCENT PER KILOGRAM. SALUZZO, CUNEO, ITALY.



A MOMENT OF THE FOOTBALL MATCH NICOTERA MARINA – KOA BOSCO, 1-0.
THE KOA BOSCO IS THE FIRST TEAM COMPLETELY COMPOSED BY AFRICAN MIGRANTS
COMING FROM THE TENT CAMP OF SAN FERDINANDO OR FROM THE CAMPO CONTAINER OF ROSARNO.
NICOTERA, VIBO VALENTIA, ITALY.



A SHOWER WITH FIRE-WARMED WATER IN THE FORMER APOF, IN SANTA CECILIA, A DISMISSED FACTORY NOW HOSTING A GHETTO. HERE MANY PEOPLE LIVE IN A MORTIFYING SITUATION WITH NO CLEAN WATER, NO ELECTRICITY NOR PROPER TOILETS. SANTA CECILIA DI EBOLI, SALERNO, ITALY.



PEACHES PICKED UP IN THE SALUZZO AREA. THEY'RE SOLD WHOLESALE,
ON AVERAGE, AT 0.30 EUROCENTS/KG. THEIR PRODUCTION COST IS 0.24 EUROCENTS/KG.
SALUZZO, CUNEO, ITALY.

SHEEP UNDER THE SURVEILLANCE OF A YOUNG MAN FROM THE TENT CAMP OF SAN FERDINANDO.
THE CAMP IS COMPOSED BY TENTS OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND SEVERAL UNAUTHORISED ACCOMODATIONS
WITH EVERY KIND OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES, HOSTING MORE THAN A THOUSAND PEOPLE.
TENT CAMP OF SAN FERDINANDO, REGGIO CALABRIA, ITALY.



PETRE RELAXING AFTER A DAY OF WORK IN HIS RENTED HOUSE NEAR EBOLI.
THE COMMUNITIES FROM THE MAGHREB AND THE BALKAN REGIONS NOW RESIDE PERMANENTLY
IN THE AREA, LIVING IN THE HOUSES ONCE USED FOR HOLIDAYS.
CAMPOLONGO, SALERNO, ITALY.



ITALIAN WORKERS PICKING STRAWBERRIES IN A GREENHOUSE BETWEEN BATTIPAGLIA AND EBOLI.
IN THE PIANA DEL SELE, ITALIAN AND FOREIGN WORKERS ARE PAID THE SAME –
ALL AT THE MINIMUM WAGE PROVIDED BY THE COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT.
SANTA LUCIA, SALERNO, ITALY.



AERIAL VIEW OF A TOMATOES FIELD DURING THE HARVEST. THE WORKERS,
MOSTLY FROM WESTERN AFRICA, EARN FROM 3 TO 4 EURO
FOR EVERY 300 KG CRATE DELIVERED. THEY ALSO NEED TO PAY
5 EUROS FOR THEIR OWN TRANSPORT, AND 3 FOR THEIR MEAL.
SAN SEVERO, FOGGIA, ITALY.





parallel zero

PARALLELOZERO, VIA DONATELLO 19/A MILAN - INFO@PARALLELOZERO.COM - WWW.PARALLELOZERO.COM - +39 02 89281630