



IN MY BACKYARD

a citizen science pilot project on home farming and gardening



www.rioneiva.com/nomeuquintal

reflections and take-aways

European Week of Regions and Cities, October 2020



1. ABOUT THE PROJECT



OBJECTIVES AND CONTEXT

In My Backyard aimed to understand the use of harmful pesticides and fertilizers in home farming and gardening and uncovering sustainable alternatives practiced within domestic backyards.

At the end of the period we aimed to better understand this reality and have a clear baseline of work for the upcoming years.

February – September 2020

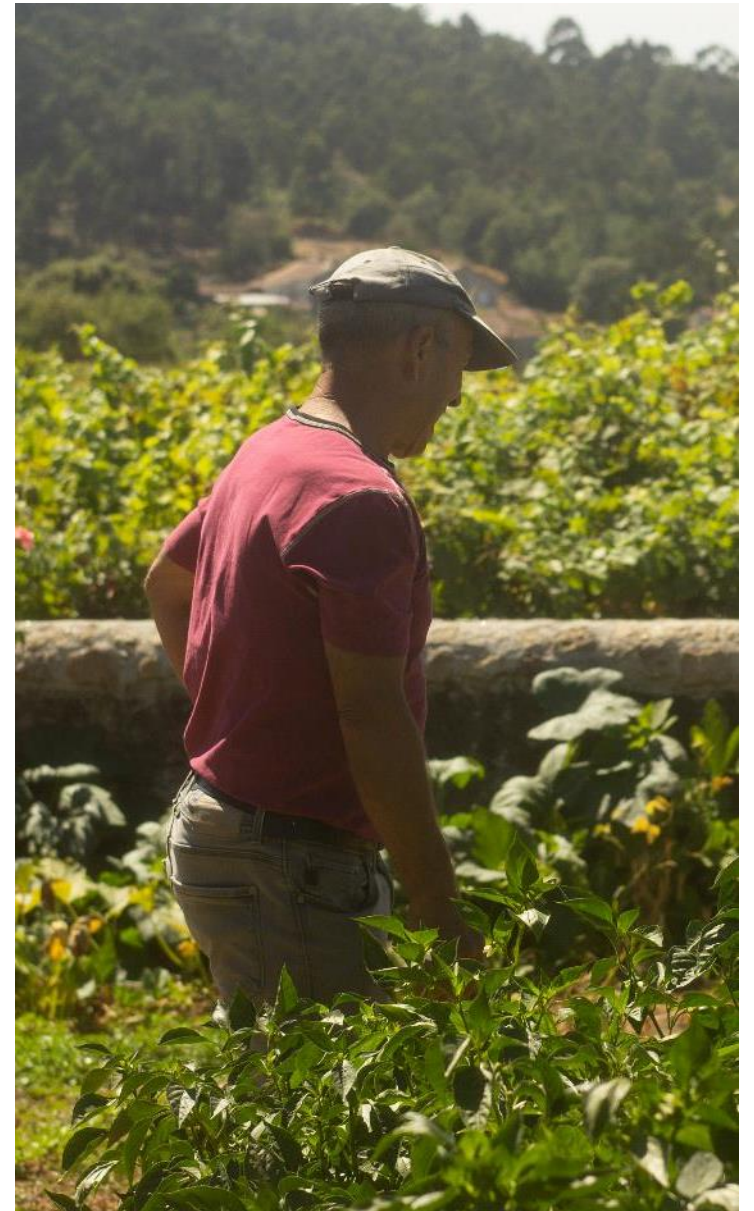


OBJECTIVES AND CONTEXT

The project stems from the observation that:

- there is a widespread practice of backyard farming and gardening for home production in the local area; and
- there is a knowledge gap on the usage of pesticides and fertilizers in home farming and gardening.

Our approach was based on on-site visits to local domestic backyards and on-line survey.



ORGANISATION

PROMOTOR

Rio Neiva Environmental NGO aims to defend and enhance the local natural environment and to promote a balanced regional development of the Neiva river valley, in Esposende.



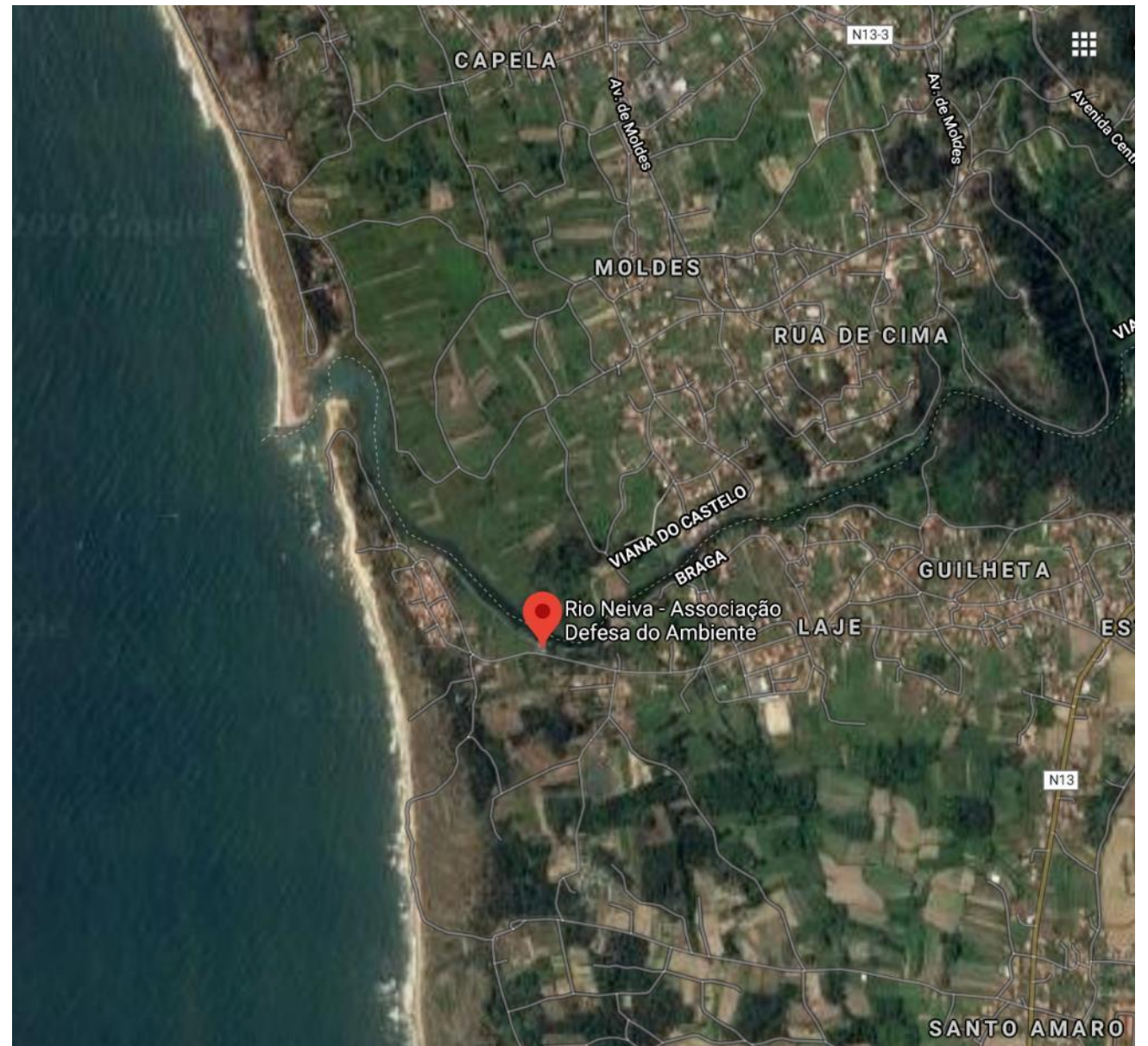
PARTNER

Environmental Education Centre is a municipal infrastructure within the environment municipal enterprise, in Esposende.



LOCATION

Grounded in Antas, a small urban-rural area in Esposende, in the northern coast of Portugal.



ACTIVITIES

ON-SITE DATA COLLECTION

- survey response;
- ethnographic observation / immersion;
- video documentary.

ONLINE DATA COLLECTION

- survey response.

EVENTS

- dissemination;
- capacitation.



RESULTS

Database on the collected information: 2

Reflections and Take-Aways report: 1

Visual analysis of the collected data: 1

Booklet on sustainable practices: 1

Anthropological video documentary: 1

Visual identity: 1

Video teaser: 1

Website: 1

Online photo gallery: 1

Project Press Kit: 1

Survey: 1

Data Management Plan: 1

Privacy Policy: 1

Privacy/Consent statement forms: 3

Project team meetings: 15

Mentoring meetings: 6

On-site visits: 25

Online survey responses: 110

Capacitation and dissemination events: 11

Event participants: 689

Communication reach: 10.000

Media news articles: 14

External public presentations: 2

2. KEY INSIGHTS



KNOWLEDGE AREA

- Opening-up a new research and innovation topic;
- Relevant role on an environmental, social and economic level;
- Personal and intimate entry point for awareness raising and behaviour change.



DATA COLLECTION

- Uncovering what sort of vegetables, flowers, or animals exist in backyards and why and how;
- Understanding the relationship between backyards and their owners and how a survey by itself provides a narrow picture of reality;
- Understanding the use and concern with fertilizers and pesticides.



NGO CAPACITATION

- Importance of small grants public funding to leverage a local and community-level NGO;
- Mentoring process as crucial for immersion in state-of-the-art discussion and project development.



POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

- Strengthening the relationship between civil society and public authorities;
- Raising awareness on backyards as an integral element in territory development;
- NGO as a mediator between the public and private sphere without compromising privacy, intimacy and values.



A row of colorful beehives is arranged on a concrete ledge in a garden. The hives are stacked and feature various colors including grey, yellow, purple, green, and brown. They are surrounded by trees and greenery, with a house visible in the background. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. A semi-transparent white banner with the text "TEASER VIDEO" is overlaid on the center of the image.

TEASER VIDEO



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

+ info: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement number 824603.





rioneiva.com/nomeuquintal

IN MY BACKYARD

a citizen science pilot project on home farming and gardening