

Good, clean and fair:

The Slow Food Declaration of Quality

The most widespread production and consumption systems have often proven to be detrimental to the world, to its eco-system and to its inhabitants.

Flavour, biological variety, the health of people and animals, well-being and nature are all subject to constant attack, which endangers the simple desire of users and producers of food to feed and to produce: that is to say, exercising the right to enjoyment without damaging the livelihood of other people or other global ecological balances.

If, as the agricultural poet, Wendell Berry, declared, "Eating is an agricultural act", then the production of foodstuffs can be considered to be an "act of gastronomy".

The consumer guides production and the market through his decisions. With the growing awareness of these actions, he turns his attention to a new subject. Consumption becomes a part of the act of production: the consumer is a co-producer. The producer has a key role in this process: by means of his work carried out under the mark of quality, his experience which he makes available and the knowledge of others which he himself is open to.

It is an effort which must be undertaken together, in the interest of an interdisciplinary gastronomical science of which everyone is aware and with which everyone agrees.

Each one of us is called upon to realise and to spread a new, more precise and, at the same time, advanced concept of food quality, which is based on a combination of three essential ideas.

Qualitative, high-grade foodstuffs must be:

Good

The organoleptic quality, measured using the ability to skilfully recognise sensory properties, results from the competence of the producer, the choice of ingredients and the production methods, all of which do not interfere with the natural properties of the product.

Clean

The ecological "sustainability" must be observed and promoted through agricultural practices, stock breeding, processing, commercialisation and sustainable consumption. All aspects of the agricultural-technological foodstuff production process, including consumption, must preserve the ecological systems and the biological variety as well as protect the health of consumers and producers

Fair

Social justice must be pursued through the creation of working conditions which respect people and their rights, as well as ensure appropriate remuneration. This is done by striving for globally balanced economies, practising solidarity and respecting cultural and traditional differences.

The good, clean and fair quality is a commitment to a better future.

The good, clean and fair quality is a question of decency and a tool used to improve today's food system.