

Plants and Identity: from Biocultural Characteristics to Valorization of Local Plant Resources

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(Summary)

The paper examines the process of transformation of plant species into emblems that play an important role in the construction of local identity and the specific taste of place. By comparing the case of Raduil and Smilyan beans, the authors seek answers to the questions how a plant crop that has not been the subject of intense cultivation and extensive commercialization becomes a value and is permanently associated with the name of a settlement (area), how this happens in time, what are the main social actors in the process, which are the economic and socio-cultural preconditions, how the valorisation of certain local plant resources is expressed in cultural forms and can be an incentive for activating local communities and economic revival of the studied areas. The bio-cultural dimensions of beans in Smilyan and Raduil and the process of evaluation of these food plants are the main threads in the study.

Keywords: plant resources; beans; local landrace; biocultural; valorization; locality; internalization; festivalization

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