

Dear friends,

We would like to invite you to take part in a new initiative we are setting up together with a group of CSA producers in Greece. In a nutshell, what we want to do is what we call 'solidarity exports', aiming to actively support small farmers of Greece. Solidarity exports bring the principles and ethics of the CSA movement to the European level by connecting low intensity, small-scale agroecological Greek farmers directly with other CSA networks in Europe.

Corinthian Orchards (Περιβόλι Κορίνθου) is a small CSA initiative that started in 2012 between 14 organic farmers around Ancient Corinth and a growing base of consumers 80 kilometres away in Athens. We cultivate outdoor vegetables year round and fruit, mainly oranges, lemons, mandarins, grapes, pomegranates and figs. We also produce a few processed goods like grape syrup and resins. However, the collective quantities of the citrus fruit cannot be absorbed by the Greek market -mainly due to the collapse of purchasing power for the majority of the population.

Having started last year with fair trade exports of citrus fruit we realized that the bulk of fiscal returns still lies with the middle men and women to the disadvantage of both the producers and the consumers. So we thought to get in touch with individual CSAs (or networks of them), solidarity and social spaces, social enterprises and other small solidarity economy schemes and organise direct exports for produce that is not available and does not grow locally (i.e. oranges, lemons and mandarins and later on olives and olive oil). The goal is that this will happen in such a way so that our small farmers can have a significant boost in their ability to survive and continue farming, while consumers in the north can have access to high quality, ethical agricultural products in reasonable prices without threatening the livelihood of local farmers -by providing only things that are not available but are in demand. It is a win-win-win situation and we would like your help.

So if you like the idea please spread it around and write to us (contact Antonis at antonis@perivolikorinthou.gr) for more details and to set up an order. The season for the oranges is just starting!

[Jenny Gkiougki](#) & [Antonis Diamantidis](#)

Why support Greek small farmers?

The latest austerity pack of 2016 has been particularly harsh for agricultural producers who now have to PREpay 50% of NEXT year's tax along with big raises to taxation and health contributions; agricultural petrol tax has gone from 60€ to 330€ per ton and ENFIA -a new, crisis-generated, property tax is due to be applied to land owners, even for non-arable fields. As owing money to the government has been elevated to a criminal offence, many farmers are soon to be facing jail time and/or confiscation of their land.

Most small-scale farmers in Greece operate on one or more extremely small pieces of land (as small as 0.3 ha) that may not even be close together. The extreme land fragmentation of course comes with many disadvantages -especially cost and time wise. And the fact that they have small yields doesn't help in increasing their bargaining power against merchants and middlemen.

So, we thought -just like in Permaculture, that we can turn the problem on its head and make it into the solution! Because, on the other hand, this fragmentation means that we have small pockets of uniqueness with very high levels of biodiversity all around the country!

The way forward is not charity but solidarity!

Orange Fact Sheet

Our oranges come from small-scale organic producers in and around the area of Corinth in south Greece. Most of these orchards are family owned and have been passed on from generation to generation.

Variety: Oranges Merlin

The Merlin is the best eating orange.

The fruit is big and round shaped and has a light orange peel colour. Its flesh is sweet, fragrant and naturally very juicy. They have no pips and are easy to peel.

Merlins can be eaten out of hand, juiced, or used in jam and dried fruit production.

They are available from November through April, with peak supplies in January, February and March.



Sidney Louis Walter Merlin was a British botanist and an Olympic Gold medalist who was born in Greece. He is best known for the introduction, in 1925, of the "Washington Navel" orange variety to his estate in Corfu. To this day, it is known in Greece as "Merlin".



Packaging is in 15-kilo cardboard boxes.

Pallet size can be either in europalet with 40 boxes or industrial pallet with 55 boxes.

Pricing: we have structured the price around what we believe to be a fair price for both producers and consumers. Roughly the budget is as follows: Retail price 2€ per kilo from which 1€ goes to the producer, 70 cents to packing (materials, labour and handling for export) and up to 30 cents for transport calculating on the basis of the average transportation costs we have for Western Europe. Oranges are pretty sturdy fruits and do not require refrigeration for storage or transport for short periods of time.

For more information on availabilities, delivery times, price structure or to place an order please contact Antonis at antonis@perivolikorinthou.gr

