Article

Opportunities of Humanitarian Engineering for bottom up innovations in foodscape, to consolidate peace economies with a territorial focus in Colombia

Ana Prada

3Colibrís Foundation¹, anapradap@gmail.com

This paper highlights the commitment of the academia to build knowledge in a participatory manner, integrating the actors that are proposed as the object of study. Considering the opportunities of humanitarian engineering to facilitate and stimulate the strengthening the capacities of community organizations dedicated to the production, transformation and/or commercialization of food, to develop community innovations, in order to transform social relationships in local foodscapes towards relationships of trust that promote the construction of Peace Economies with a territorial approach, through the co-design and implementation of participatory methodologies that recognize the knowledge, networks and capacities that community organizations have.

Key words:

Territorial approach, humanitarian engineering, foodscapes, Colombia, peace economies, community organizations, community innovations, trust building.

Introduction:

On November of 2016 the Peace Agreements between the Colombian Government and the guerrilla of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Acronym in Spanish FARC) were signed, opening the panorama of opportunities to build a more innovative, inclusive and fair country. The Agreements propose the peace building with a territorial approach, where communities are protagonist in the creation of public policy and the planning of the future of their territories, to configure new forms of relationship in the foodscapes to strength local economies, through what we call models of Economies of Peace.

¹ Member of Slow Food and the Family Agriculture National Network (RENAF in Spanish).

In the territories that have lived through the armed conflict, there have historically been community processes, however, the armed conflict, public policies and cooperation programs of assistance approach and the tendency of deterritorialization by the State and the war economies led by drug trafficking have weakened the autonomous community's and their ability to autonomously solve the challenges that are part of their foodscapes, especially those that have to do with creating a relationship of proximity and trust between the stakeholders involved in the value chain. This situation jeopardizes the permanence of communities in their territories and the guarantee of the right to food by reducing the ability to guarantee the national food security, sovereignty and autonomy (FSSA).

In this sense, humanitarian engineering, as an engineering field that develops solutions to the daily problems of the most marginalized sectors of society, has great potential to facilitate capacity building for community innovation in community organizations, transcending the transfer of technology to promote the exchange of knowledge and capabilities to facilitate the creation of community innovations that, from the perspective of community organizations allow solving the challenges that community organizations face daily in relation to the operation of value chains in which ones participate. Through participatory methodological tools in which the knowledge, capacities and networks of community organizations are recognized.

Through the experience of the Ecobufalo organization, we analyze the opportunities that humanitarian engineering has to strengthen the capacities of community organizations dedicated to the production, transformation and / or commercialization of food in the development of community innovations that allow transforming foodscapes, towards relationships of trust and a territorial approach that contributes to the consolidation of models of economies of peace.

This article includes methodology; the conceptual framework related to peace economies; a reflection on the elements that show the importance of recognizing the knowledge of organizations factors that favor the construction of peace economies at territorial level with community organizations as protagonists, opportunities of humanitarian engineering, conclusions.

Methodology

For the development of this article were combined comparative analysis of international experiences through Participatory Action Research (PAR) process, developed by the author who visited 30 productive processes, living with farmers, indigenous people and urban people who initiated life projects in the countryside, with the project "Custodios de Esperanza", developed in rural territories in 10 countries in Latin America (Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Ecuador, Cuba, Costa Rica, Peru and Colombia), the purpose of PAR process was to analyze from a comprehensive perspective the organizational, productive and commercial factors that facilitate the sustainability of basic productive processes in rural contexts.

In addition, the experience of the Ecobufalo, part of the Association of the Cimitarra River Valley (Acronym in Spanish ACVC) in the Magdalena Medio region was analyzed understanding their community innovations in agricultural value chains, where experiences of peace building and

value chain expansion have taken place. Likewise, key actors of the foodscape in Colombia, peasants, leaders of farmers' associations and cooperatives, union leaders of various agricultural sectors, members of government institutions and the implementation of the Peace Accords in the country were also interviewed. Secondary sources were contrasted with the primary sources of your experiences, with academic articles, addressing Territorial Peace, trust building, participatory design, foodscapes and humanitarian engineering. The analyzes developed in this research consider actors, processes and opportunities, framed in the implementation of the Peace Agreements, without ignoring the existence of local organizational experiences that preceded them.

Conceptual Frameworks

Peace Economies with a Territorial Approach: understand the territory for trust building and construction of a stable and lasting peace in Colombia

To understand the horizons of building a stable and lasting peace in Colombia, we must transcend the notion of land and understand territories as spaces in which social relations are expressed and concretized, where control over land predominates as an expression of power relations that are characteristic of Colombian society. The armed conflict in Colombia has territorial dynamics and is territorially understood. The understanding of the territory in relation to the construction of peace leads to transforming the traditional vertical and formal decisions into the political conduction of the territory, moving towards constructions and democratic forms from below (Fajardo, 2014).

The notion of Peace Economies is addressed to appreciate the way in which community and associative processes that are created from the territories, starring peasant, indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities contribute to the construction of stable and lasting peace from territorializing, political participation in Territory planning and innovation in foodscapes.

In the Final Agreement, the notion of Territorial Peace² is introduced as a novel form of territorial governance that allows the deployment of a series of territorial processes and transformations, hindered by the dynamics of war (Heriberto Cairo, 2018). The construction of Territorial Peace implies dialogue between the different worldviews that may exist in each territory, privileging the gaze of those who build communal territories (Jiménez-Martín, 2016), for whom the principles of good life and good living tend to predominate of the collective. These forms of community organization often pursue a reconstruction of the organic links between humanity and nature. In each territory, renewed interactions between natural complexes and human orders are expressed,

² In the point of Integral Rural Reform, the National Government and the FARC recognize that there is a set of structural causes that generate a widening gap between countryside and city, although the parties recognize their differences between the causes, they reach a consensus on the control should be the solution to this problem, the redistribution of land, facilitate access to families that have taken their land, include women in local economies, activate local fibers through production, creating a multipurpose disaster, taxation and the creation of Development Plans with Territorial Approach.

with geographical differences that become cultural, political, social and economic differences, which define the process of spatial production (Jiménez-Martín, 2016).

From this perspective, economy is thought of as a multidimensional issue that also contemplates the biocultural diversity that shapes the territories. A territorial approach refers to living and dynamic territories that move according to the patterns of power and horizons of meaning pursued by the diversity of social actors, when talking about territorial transformations, reference is made to the movements of society in the territories (Heriberto Cairo, 2018). In each territory, dispute relations are expressed that denote a confrontation of proposals against the ordination, characterized by tension by the political direction of the same.

In addition, the construction of models of Peace Economies with a territorial approach implies the construction of relationships of trust³ between the actors that interact with each other. In our case study in relation to foodscapes, the actors involved in foodscapes have to feel closer to those who have traditionally been geographically and socially distant, "new worlds are possible by experiencing elements of the other even before being able to articulate with each other's expectations" (Carolan, 2017).

Foodscapes: innovations in the landscape of community organizations value chains

Foodscape refers to the food landscape of a community in a territory, understanding the ways in which food is produced, bought or obtained, prepared and consumed, and the relationship between food and individuals in the community (Bosschaart, 2015), the approach to the understanding of local economies from a foodscape perspective contributes to the consolidation of Peace Economy with a territorial approach, understanding food as a political act that advocates for equity, sustainability and easy access to healthy food (Mackendrick, 2014).

Food landscapes lead to analyze food systems from a cultural geographical perspective, focusing on their site-dependent social construction and multiple meanings and interpretations, sometimes controversial. They also lead to promoting community health and sustainable food security by promoting socio-ecological sustainability and resilience within the food system (Bosschaart, 2015). Namely, agroecological production contributes to the sustainability of foodscapes⁴.

The object of study is the foodscapes and the way we interact with the diverse spectrum of people involved in the story of food. For example, the perception that the producer of buffalo yogurt has a family that consumes his products in the capital, and the way this perception leads him to improve his sanitation practices to take care of the health of his consumers.

³ According to (Gambetta, 2000) we say we trust somebody when we implicitly mean that the probability that the person will perform an action that is beneficial (...) is high enough for us to considered engaging in some form of cooperation with him. In complement (Niccoló F. Meriggi, 2018) argue "Trust reflects expectations about the behavior of others and captures the willingness of a party to be vulnerable to the actions of another party. It is based on the expectation that the other will be trustworthy".

⁴ The percentage of external inputs used for production represents less than 20%. Through agroecological management, innovation and adoption of appropriate technologies for the use of renewable energy sources, the system supplies energy in more than 75% (Casimiro, 2016).

The innovations in the value chains that are developed in the Colombian territories imply the dialogue between diverse actors, from producers to consumers and the co-design of productive schemes based on solidarity, collaboration, inclusion and conservation of the Biocultural diversity⁵ that allows finding innovative alternatives to the traditional idle productive models that predominate in the Colombian countryside (Prada, Custodians of Hope Project., 2018).

Foodscales promote the creation of food models designed to bring people together⁶, to create communities guaranteeing access to affordable food, creating fair, supportive and sustainable production schemes that innovate in marketing channels, forms of organization, available products, and encouraging the creation of food care systems (Carolan, 2017).

Community Organization: Permanent local community innovation scenarios

Community organizations transcend the traditional business model, although they have an economic interest in generating profitability that is redistributed among associates, community organizations also become a space for the production and reproduction of identification processes, in which mechanisms of historically localized and relational character to which the subjects go strategically to solve ontological and political problems (Prada, 2015).

The identification processes that emerge within the framework of community organizations flourish in the interaction mediated by objective conditions that chart the course of such processes and that correspond to geographic, political / cultural, social and historical factors, regardless of whether or not the social actors are aware of it. In that sense, the community organization scenario for the construction of a political and economic project that guides the course of interaction between its enrollees, while serving as the manifestation of the corporate project defended by its members (Prada, 2015).

In the arena of organized social action, identities function as a mechanism that gives meaning to a collective experience, and not strictly individual. In the identity construction processes the subjects interact with other agents creating agreements between individuals, institutions and organizations that can occur at local, national or global scales. So that each community organization has its own collection of networks, knowledge, experiences and a history that shapes its trajectory and the way in which it solves its daily challenges, in this sense, each community organization is a scene of community innovation.

According to (FAO, 2020) in order to participate meaningfully in co-management, certain stakeholders need to form an organization that will achieve the objectives and goals of the co-

⁵ Small agriculture feeds 70% of the world's population with 25% of available resources, while agribusiness feeds the remaining 30% occupying 75% of resources (Prada, Semana Rural , 2018). For its part, agroecological agriculture, feeds the world in an efficient and diverse way. Efficiency, recycling, caring for soils, generating interactions and synergies and diversity are the five principles of agroecology (Altieri, 2011).

⁶ By rebuilding proximity relationships between the actors involved in foodscape, their capacity to exercise the right to food from the perspective of food security and sovereignty is strengthened, becoming involved in the construction of recognition policies, spaces and activities that generate awareness among diners to those with greater distance, producers, who live in the countryside (Carolan, 2017).

management process. An organization is needed to support people who intend to participate in the process and form a dynamic partnership in the fisheries co-management project. In this research our main interest in rural community organizations involved in the production, transformation and/or commercialization of food product, especially the ones located in armed conflict context in Colombia.

Humanitarian Engineering: An opportunity for collaboration to leverage local economies in an innovative way

Humanitarian Engineering is an engineering field that seeks to offer collaboratively designed solutions to vulnerable and marginalized communities, transforming the way engineering relates to communities and grassroots organizations, offering alternatives that are culturally inclusive and appropriate environmental, social and economically (Reina, 2015). For the interests of this article, we are highlighting the importance of understanding the complexity of social relations, especially those immersed in foodscapes in which community organizations dedicated to the production, transformation and / or commercialization of food in contexts of armed conflict participate, encouraging the development of community proposals that generate added value and stimulate community innovation.

Humanitarian Engineering is a field of engineering that for two decades has allowed engineers to contribute to the social transformation of the most marginalized, by designing and implementing appropriate solutions for vulnerable communities (Reina, Gaitan-Albarracín, & Pena, 2018). As a methodological and praxis scheme, the notion of humanitarian engineering is incorporated as an engineering field in which science, technology and local knowledge are found to offer collaborative solutions to specific problems. Humanitarian Engineering have a focus on relationship transformation, in addition to technology transfer:

“Engineering as a whole has resolved the needs and problems of society through the history. However, some sectors of the population have been marginalized economically, socially, politically and technologically, creating consequences and issues in specific communities. This unequal situation represents a challenge for the academia and especially for engineering schools that can be addressed through new educational, pedagogical and practical processes using the cocreation. The first aim is to generate solutions with these communities through a process reflection and action of in terms of sovereignty and social justice”. (Reina, Gaitan-Albarracín, & Pena, 2018).

As the armed conflict in Colombia, has to do with idle land use due to land concentration (dedicated to extensive livestock, monocultures of commodities and in many cases to illicit crops), social exclusion and unequal distribution of taxes. That turns Colombia into a country that produces raw materials without greater added value and is concentrated in few hands, this situation causes war economies to be successfully inserted into the territories (Rodríguez-Camargo, 2018). From its ability to solve problems the Humanitarian Engineering has a great potential to contribute to the generation of added value, innovation in foodscapes. So that community organizations expand their portfolio of tools and capacities to develop profitable and

socially viable productive projects from the self-management and collaboration, implementing appropriate technologies.

Humanitarian Engineering can support the methodologies proposed by Participatory Design to solve the problems of vulnerable and marginalized communities, developing processes for problem identification, ideation and implementation of solutions in a collaborative manner. Participatory Design facilitates the understanding of the companion in Community Organizations as a process in constant evolution that contemplates the ideation, implementation, testing and collective evaluation (Lupton, 2017). At the beginning the ideas are cheap and large, they emerge in abundance and are easily discarded, then they are reduced to those that have the most signs of success, the criteria of success must be built with the accompanied community organization. In this way, Participatory Design offers creative thinking tools⁷ that were developed within groups that work together to achieve a common goal (Lupton, 2017).

Factors that Favor the Construction of Peace Economies at Territorial Level with Community Organizations as Protagonists

Peace Economies involve consolidating inclusive political models of governance of all the parties involved, encouraging the interlocation between small farmers is a necessary condition to curb the polarization and increasing concentration of the land, in the same way, is necessary a social model open to dialogue, capable of accepting the difference, aware of the damage caused by hate and revenge narratives; and an open cooperation.

In this sense, the territorial approach is fundamental, policy makers should stop thinking in capital city as a center that relates to the periphery, and in a rural Colombia as “the other Colombia”, instead of that, a territorial approach understands that Colombia is a mostly rural country and this is its greater wealth. Changing the paradigm of Colombia as an extractive and import economy for commercialization, instead taking advantage of local knowledge, capabilities and networks to generate added value locally, and innovate locally.

Focus the virtues of each person in meaningful production, creativity and innovation to solve the problems of everyday life through collaboration. In this sense, we identify 3 factors that contribute to the consolidation of Peace Economies with a territorial approach, with community organizations as protagonist in the foodscape transformation towards the building of relationships based on trust, where Humanitarian Engineering praxis in rural contexts have a spectrum of opportunities to stimulate community innovations with the most marginalized ones.

A. Collective construction of tools and capacities for territorial peace

The collective construction of tools and capacities for the consolidation of Peace Economies with territorial approach contemplates the personal, family, organizational and structural dimensions.

⁷ The Participatory Design of Design Thinking methodology also offers a broad spectrum of tools to define problems collaboratively.

In this sense, four capabilities whose development within a community organization strengthens organizations to leverage relationship changes in foodscapes:

1. Dialogue and active listening, through the exchange of experiences and peaceful conflict resolution.
2. The recognition of family farming as an engine of Territorial Peace.
3. The creation of local and regional networks based on cooperation and solidarity.

B. National and global spectrum of opportunities for advocacy in public policy with a territorial approach to strengthen community processes in the construction of peace economies

Agricultural policy has historically been characterized by the supremacy of the interests of the Colombian elite, with some policies that favor small farmers, indigenous and Afro-Colombians. These last have been the result of social mobilizations in which the communities that make up the Colombian territories have sued to the National Government. However, in the last 30 years a new national and global spectrum of opportunities for political advocacy from the territories has been consolidated.

In that sense, there are two national and international political tools that favor the consolidation of Peace Economies with a territorial approach, both considering issues such as inclusion, governance to reduce corruption, active participation of communities in the planning of their territories, redistribution of land, facilitate access to families who have taken their land, the inclusion of young people and women in local economies, these tools are:

1. Development Plans with Territorial Approach (Acronym in Spanish PDET) and the National Integral Substitution Program (Acronym in Spanish PNIS)
2. Expansion in the recognition of the identities that exist in the territories: Peasant, family and community agriculture, with Resolution 464 of 2017 and the United Nations Declaration of Recognition of the Rights of Peasants.

C. Community innovations in foodscapes in Colombia focused on inclusion

Peace Economies with a territorial approach are an invitation for innovation and creativity, to involve all civil society in the construction of peace, it is not an exclusive issue of those who live in the territories; from this perspective, it has been found that organizations that mobilize the construction of peace economies in their territories, has an innovative and inclusive orientation in their operation, that relate the food value chain, from the seed, that is sown in the territories to guarantee food security and sovereignty, to the commercialization channels and to the meals prepared and consumed in foodscapes:

1. Women and Food Security and Sovereignty.
2. Peasant production that mitigates climate change.
3. Innovation, profitability and generation of added value.
4. Producers and consumers reducing geographic and social gaps together.

Humanitarian engineering for the transformation of foodscapes for the consolidation of peace economies with territorial approach

In the current context, Humanitarian Engineering faces the challenge of contributing to social justice and reducing social gaps, from the perspective of foodscapes where the community organization are involved, having a unique potential to contribute to:

- a) The reduction of the gap between community organizations and its consumers through the estimation of innovation for the transformation of food products, meeting the needs and desires of starters.
- b) The recognition of local innovations and knowledge as a fundamental input for the co-creation of solutions to concrete problems of community organizations.
- c) By co-designing with community product organizations, implementing methodologies that estimate collaboration, for community organizations to gain autonomy by moving forward in the value chain.
- d) Reflection on participatory methods and practices that estimate the creation of trust between producers and consumers to contribute to the transformation of foodscapes towards Peace Economy models.

Humanitarian Engineering has to opportunity of relating to community organizations that transcends the discipline of design, that encourages the exchange of ideas, the recognition of local knowledge, that encourages active listening and encourages the creation of consensus between community organizations and the external actor that facilitates the participatory design space. In this sense, the design of the methodology itself must involve the community organization, the community organization should not be limited to passive participation in participatory design scenarios, instead, the co-creation spaces for participatory design should facilitate the reflection of community organizations to identify the milestones, successes and mistakes that have led them to where they are and the strategies that leverage their potential to transform foodscapes for the construction of economies of peace, with innovations in the chain of values that promote social justice, reduce gaps and boost trust among the actors involved (See Figure 1. Opportunities of humanitarian engineering to transform foodscapes of community organizations and consolidate peace economies with territorial approach).

Figure 1. Opportunities of humanitarian engineering to transform foodscapes of community organizations and consolidate peace economies with territorial approach. Source: Author.

Experiences like Ecobufalo⁸ and the organizations visited in the "Custodios de Esperanza" project shows that the creation of solidarity networks to solve problems collaboratively, the understanding of the particular contexts of each community organization and the recognition of local knowledge and knowledge favor the continuity of community innovation processes in community organizations independently, without dependence on external actors, how it has happened in the Ecobufalo that over time has developed resilience and reinvented itself to continue to exist, mediating between its own proposal for the construction of territorial peace and the needs and desires of the consumers of Ecobufalo products.

⁸ Ecobufalo is a community organization located in the Magdalena Medio Region created on the year 2000, by local small producers, improving the quality of life of their members by increasing their income, through the development of productive activities with dairy and buffalo meat, produce in community, generate added value and participate in short circuits marketing, recognize the role of women as guardians of ancestral knowledge and have influenced public policy in favor of farmers, participated in the design of the Territorial Approach Development Plans for their region, rely on local civil society actors, cooperation international and the academy among others to continue generating guarantees of permanence in the territory.

In the case of the Ecobufalo, the autonomy of the organization to establish networks, exchanges of experiences and reflection on its knowledge and knowledge has allowed it to participate in participatory design processes with external stakeholders such as NGOs, private companies and universities, managing to solve fruitful daily challenges of the organization such as guaranteeing the quality and safety of products, integrating into local markets, developing products in an associative way.

Although the innovations in the foodscapes developed by the Ecobufalo are developed in relation to the community in which the organization is inserted, and include a diversity of stakeholders, despite the recognition of a place of enunciation of its own as a community organization is the one that It has allowed the organization to continue as a space for transforming foodscapes for the construction of economies of peace in the Magdalena Medio region of Colombia.

Leveraging the foodscapes framework from a humanitarian engineering perspective, offers guidelines with a bottom up approach to solve the main food problems, such as obesity, climate change, malnutrition and depressed rural economies. On that sense, assuming the challenges community organizations daily face can be solved with technological fixes, while the evidence indicates are social in nature (Carolan, 2017).

Humanitarian engineering can offer solutions in the generation of added value of local production, with appropriate technologies to improve quality and facilitate communities to design solutions to their storage, transformation, hygiene and safety problems, "labor" risks, and marketing, among others. Peace Economies with a territorial approach involve us all, they invite us to become aware of the origin of our food, to be protagonists in our right to healthy food, to promote dialogue, cooperativism as ways of doing things, innovation, value creation aggregate. The Peace economies are not the economies of the benefit of a few, the perpetuation of a polarization discourse; on the contrary, they are the meeting point between reconciliation, forgiveness, production, innovation, recognition of identities, celebration of difference, political participation and action against climate change for the common good, they are economies of hope.

Conclusions

1. The social commitment that the academy has with society implies an exercise of empathy, leaving the classroom to visit the territory, sharing a word to co-build knowledge. To talk about territorial peace, it is imperative to live in the territories, this reflection is part of a permanent exercise of going out to the street that began 6 years ago and continues walking to contribute to the construction of peace from the dialogue with those who configure the territories.
2. Given that the armed conflict in Colombia has a rural genesis and that the territories have significant geographical, cultural and social differences among themselves, in the second most diverse country in the world, it is pertinent to talk about building peace with a territorial approach, to find innovative solutions capable of solving the particular needs of each territory.

3. Historically, agrarian policy in Colombia has tended to deterritorialization, uprooting, land speculation, limiting the ability to innovate from the territories, favoring war economies and the commodification of agrarian production, generating “center-periphery” disputes. between those who have historically inhabited the territories and who make public policy decisions from the center, which accentuate the polarization and the imaginary of the “other Colombia”, that rural, depopulated, exotic and “distant” Colombia, to legitimize the concentration of the land to benefit the national elite.

4. Humanitarian engineering has the potential to contribute to the construction of alternatives to improve foodscapes through the design of productive models. Think about the place of engineers in the social challenges of today and in the context of the post-agreement in Colombia.

5. The perspective of foodscape with a territorial approach, allows us to appreciate the innovations that exist in the territories starring communities and grassroots organizations. Likewise, the analysis from the point of view of the foodscape, exalts the co-responsibility that all Colombians have in the construction of peace, from their decisions and food choices in the cities, the diners can be peace actors, who contribute to the construction of Peace Economies; in this sense, there is great potential to rethink food production and distribution chains towards more inclusive, fair, healthy and supportive systems with a strategy to build Peace Economies with a territorial orientation.

6. Four factors that contribute to the construction of peace economies with grassroots organizations and communities as protagonists are identified, these are:

- The collective construction of tools and capacities for territorial peace, from this perspective, peace is understood as a multidimensional and relational issue that involves the personal, family, organizational and structural.
- The existence of a new national and global spectrum of opportunities for impact on public policy with a territorial approach, which facilitate the strengthening of community processes in the construction of Peace Economies. The creation of Territorial Approach Development Plans and the National Integral Substitution Program offer new opportunities for local communities and organizations to participate in the planning of their territories.
- The communities and organizations that contribute to the construction of territorial peace develop innovations in foodscapes in Colombia, through the focus on the inclusion in all links of the productive chain, the consolidation of authentic political and economic projects that exalt diversity biocultural and the creation of novel food products. In that sense, foodscapes often recognize the role of women in guaranteeing Food Security and Sovereignty of the territories,
- Innovation, profitability and generation of added value, produce in a sustainable way, contribute to mitigate climate change, in addition, marketing chains reduce geographical and social gaps between producers and consumers.

7. Regarding the transformation of foodscapes, participatory design has the challenge of implementing methodologies and practices that contribute to the consolidation of social justice and the reduction of gaps between the actors involved in value chains. The recognition of local knowledge and skills that exist in community organizations facilitates the transfer of tools and

Prada, A

Opportunities of Humanitarian Engineering for bottom up innovations in foodscape

knowledge that community organizations are capable of autonomously managing trust-based community innovation processes. The spaces for participatory methodologies in contexts of armed conflict become opportunities for building models of economies of peace and territorial peace in which community organizations are protagonists.

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Prada, A

Opportunities of Humanitarian Engineering for bottom up innovations in foodscape

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