



IN MY BACKYARD

a citizen science pilot project on home farming and gardening



www.rioneiva.com/nomeuquintal

reflections and take-aways



We support open licenses! This work uses [CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/).

OBJECTIVES AND CONTEXT

In My Backyard is a citizen science project promoted by Rio Neiva – Environmental NGO and its partner CEA – Municipal Centre for Environmental Education, both based in Esposende, Portugal.

As project focused on uncovering and discovering a topic with limited available knowledge, as is home farming and gardening, this report documents provides key and short reflections based on our experience.

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.

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.

Check our teaser video [here](#).



LOCATION

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

Promoter:

Rio Neiva Environmental NGO

Partner:

Municipal Environmental Education Centre



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

KNOWLEDGE AREA

- Opening-up a new research and innovation topic;
- Relevant role on an environmental, social, economic and landscape aesthetic dimensions;
- 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;
- 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.



www.rioneiva.com/nomeuquintal



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

