

An analysis of what has occurred in agricultural spaces over the last four decades shows that the perplexity expressed in the book *Llibre blanc de la gestió de la natura als Països Catalans* (White paper on the management of nature in the Catalan Countries, 1976) in response to the destruction of the best farmlands has persisted to the present. This has also been a period of demands on the part of society and farmers for the protection of agricultural spaces and there have been proposals for specific management figures such as agricultural parks. Despite political commitments, however, neither the Agricultural Spaces Law nor the Agriculture Sectoral Plan have been approved. The respect for spaces of agricultural value should entail the rationalisation of urban, industrial and service-related growth, and of the layouts of infrastructures of all types, in order to prevent the loss of quality land and territorial fragmentation. It is sought to advance towards a future in which farmers will not so much work to obtain a product as to produce a food, and this is something that will call for a closer inter-relation between farmers and city inhabitants. Land is a limited resource and a common heritage that cannot be wasted.