



The Emilia-Romagna
Rural Development
Programme

2007/2013



Giving a new boost to a unique land

INNOVATIVE AND ORGANISED FARMING TO CREATE A STRONGER MARKET
PRESENCE TO THE BENEFIT OF FARMERS AND SOCIETY AS A WHOLE



Regione Emilia-Romagna



Agriculture
is part of our lives



Never before has farming played such a central role in so many challenges affecting the lives of everyone: climate change, water and energy resource management, biodiversity conservation, managerial succession, the identity and protection of our landscapes and, last but not least, the quality and safety of farm products. The 2007-2013 Rural Development Programme for Emilia-Romagna (RDP), addresses these issues through efforts and funding to help farming become innovative and gain a stronger market and food chain presence: a farming system that, beyond providing the raw products that makes up our diet, plays an increasingly vital role in the protection of our land and environment - to the benefit of all.

The RDP covers four specific axes, but its general aims can be summarised as three basic concepts. The first is to strengthen the competitiveness of the farming and forestry sector, with an emphasis on promoting managerial succession. The second is to enhance the environment and rural areas through biodiversity conservation, rational use of water resources and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. The third is to improve quality of life, an aim that can be achieved by promoting the diversification of economic activities and thus the creation of new employment opportunities that will curb the depopulation of our rural areas. The RDP for Emilia-Romagna serves the interests of all of us: never before has the future of farming affected our lives so deeply.



Young, dynamic, and tech-savvy Keeping pace with a fast changing world

The first images that come to mind when we think about farming are unlikely to be young people and the technological tools they have at their disposal. That's why Axis 1 of the RDP sets out to improve the competitiveness of the farming and forestry sector and has received Euro 448 million in funding. These funds have and will be used to finance employment opportunities for young people within the farming sector, farm innovation, training and refresher training, quality systems in production and supply chain projects, the creation of positive relations between farms, processing and distribution firms. Because the world is changing, and the farms of Emilia-Romagna have a duty to keep up.



Axis 1	Primary aims	Specific aims
<i>Improving the competitiveness of the farming and forestry sector</i>	To consolidate and develop the quality of farming and forestry products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage the participation of farmers in food quality schemes in order to increase the distinctiveness of the production
	To upgrade infrastructural facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consolidate and stabilise the profitability of the farming and forestry sector by improving working conditions, promoting the modernisation of farms and technological innovation • To promote the restructuring of non-competitive productive sectors on the international market
	To promote farm innovation and modernisation and the integration of production chains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To professionally train farming and forestry sector entrepreneurs and workers and use consulting services in order to facilitate the adaptation, modernisation and technical and organisational innovation processes • To promote the development of new products, processes and technologies, including the establishment of agro-energy systems • To support rationalisation and innovation of farming and forestry product processing and marketing in order to ensure an increase in added value for farmers
	To improve entrepreneurship and competence of farmers and other subjects involved in farming and forestry activities, to support managerial succession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To sharpen the expertise of farmers and others involved in farming and forestry activities by offering integrated training, information and advice opportunities that will provide knowledge and information dissemination support • To promote managerial succession in farming by supporting the recruitment of young and professionalised farmers as well as the structural adjustment of farms



Biodiverse, eco-friendly, sustainable
For the future of our planet

It might be easy to associate farming with land, but it's also reductive. It would be more appropriate, in fact, to associate it with the Earth, i.e. the environment in which we live, which is made up of all of nature's elements, including land. Indeed, Axis 2 of the RDP deals with improving the environment and the countryside and has received Euro 435 million in funding. The purpose of these funds is to support integrated and organic production, protect animal and plant agrobiodiversity, to preserve natural areas, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the land. Because those who work the land each day can do much to help the fate of our planet.



Axis 2	Primary aims	Specific aims
<i>Improving the environment and the countryside</i>	Biodiversity conservation, protection and dissemination of high nature value agroforestry systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To safeguard the genetic diversity of plant and animal species of agricultural interest • To protect and enhance the biodiversity of farmland and forest species and habitats, to promote the proper management of areas in the Natura 2000 network, to preserve and develop high nature value (HNV) farming and forestry systems • To promote optimal rearing conditions and methods for farmed animal welfare
	The qualitative and quantitative protection of surface and subsurface water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water conservation and efficient use of water in order to improve irrigation efficiency and effectiveness and to protect high quality water resources
	The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To contribute to climate change mitigation and air quality improvement
	Land protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To protect and enhance the agricultural landscape • To maintain sustainable farming in less-favoured hilly and mountainous areas • To protect soil resources by curbing hydrogeological instability, soil erosion and chemical contamination



Welcoming, lively, full of surprises
Business meets pleasure

Who doesn't like going on an outing or taking a day trip out of town? Luckily, with the parks, farms and nature reserves we have, we're never at a loss for something fun to do. This is where Axis 3 of the RDP comes in, offering Euro 112 million to fund projects that aim to improve quality of life and promote the diversification of economic activities in rural areas. As a result, farmers can rely on other forms of income and we can continue to enjoy an increasingly welcoming and varied countryside. Because Emilia-Romagna never wants to stop delighting us with its farming and agriculture.



Axis 3	Primary aims	Specific aims
<i>Diversification of the rural economy and quality of life in rural areas</i>	To improve the socio-economic and business attractiveness of rural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase the attractiveness for investment and settlement in rural areas through improved infrastructure, services and the recovery of their historical heritage • To enhance and develop human capital through the design and implementation of integrated local development strategies
	To maintain/create employment opportunities and generate income in rural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To integrate the farmers' income through a diversified mix of income producing activities, by making more effective use of human resources and technical means and through the production of energy and environmental services

Present, engaging, participatory A helping hand where it's most needed

There are areas in our region that, due to natural causes, are more disadvantaged than others and it is more difficult to generate income. Those areas are the Po Delta and the Apennine Mountains, which are famous for their beauty and unique character. The "Leader" community initiative supports economic growth and the development of these communities by encouraging local development strategies. Axis 4 of the RDP has been assigned Euro 52 million to help achieve these goals. Because initiatives that start from the bottom are more heartfelt and commonly supported, and more likely to make a big impact.



Axis 4	Primary aims	Specific aims
<i>Leader</i>	To strengthen local planning and management capacities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To strengthen the governance of rural development interventions through Local Action Groups (L.A.G.) and to extend and improve the partnership and bottom-up approach • To pursue and improve relations outside the area in order to exchange best practices and initiatives as well as to provide stimulation for innovation
	To exploit the areas' resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased farmer participation in the development of initiatives for a better economic exploitation of the land and its resources • To find, develop and mobilise the endogenous potentials of farming and natural resources in order to improve the quality of regional system, farms, sectors, supply chains and rural areas on domestic and international markets • To increase social participation in the planning and development of resources in order to increase local community involvement and strengthen dialogue between civil society and local institutions



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