



10 YEARS
ADRIATIC AND IONIAN INITIATIVE
ITALIAN CHAIRMANSHIP
2009-2010

AD HOC ROUND TABLE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies

Italian "National Rural Network 2007-2013"
Task Force Cooperation

Rome, Italy - 1st March 2010

THE ITALIAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT MODEL

Outline of the presentation

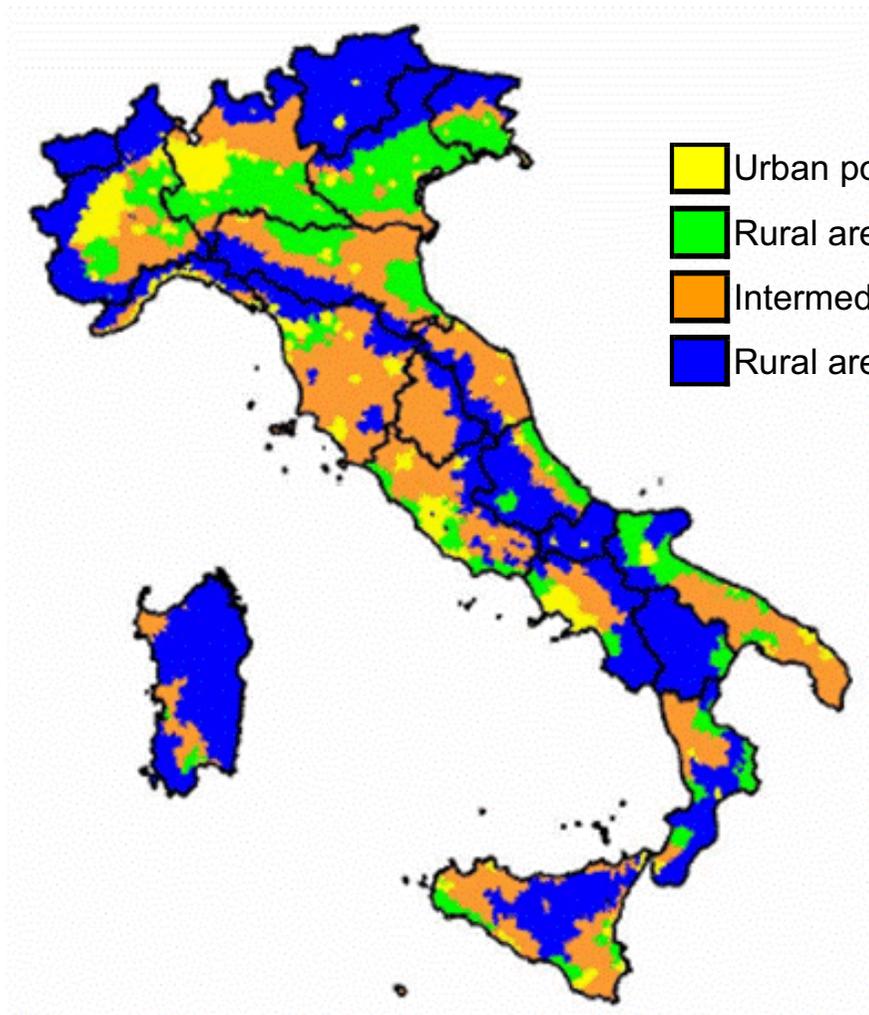
- 1) Italy's main agricultural features
- 2) Italian rural development institutional organization: roles and responsibilities
- 3) Italy's main features concerning agriculture and rural development

1 - Italy's main agricultural figures

Italian Agriculture in figures

- Country Population: 57,0 million of inhabitants
- GDP/Inhabitant: 115% (EU 27)
- Unemployment rate : 6%
- Surface: 30,1 millions of ha
 - UAA: 13,2 millions of ha (43,8%)
 - Forest surface: 10,7 millions of ha (35,5%)
- Less favourite areas/mountains: 18,4 millions of ha (61%)
- Natura 2000 area: 4,3 millions of ha (14,4%)
- Nitrate Vulnerable Areas: 4,05 millions of ha (13%)

2007: Main rural areas features



- Urban poles
- Rural areas with specialised agriculture
- Intermediate rural areas
- Rural areas with development problems

Surface	Population	Density (*)
8%	43%	1.050
17%	22%	253
32%	24%	143
43%	12%	54

(*) Inhabitants per square kilometre

1960 Rural areas features

38%

30%

32%

18.000.000

59,7%

4.293.924

4,1

Italian economy

Agriculture

Industry

Services

UAA Ectars

UAA %

Agricultural holdings

Average farm size (ha)

2007 Rural areas features

5,3%

26,6%

68,1%

13.200.000

43,8%

1.728.532

7,4

Italian rural development institutional organisation

2007-2013 Rural Development programming period:

Institutions involved

MiPAAF: Ministry of agricultural, food and forestry policies

20 Regions

110 Provinces

8.101 Municipalities

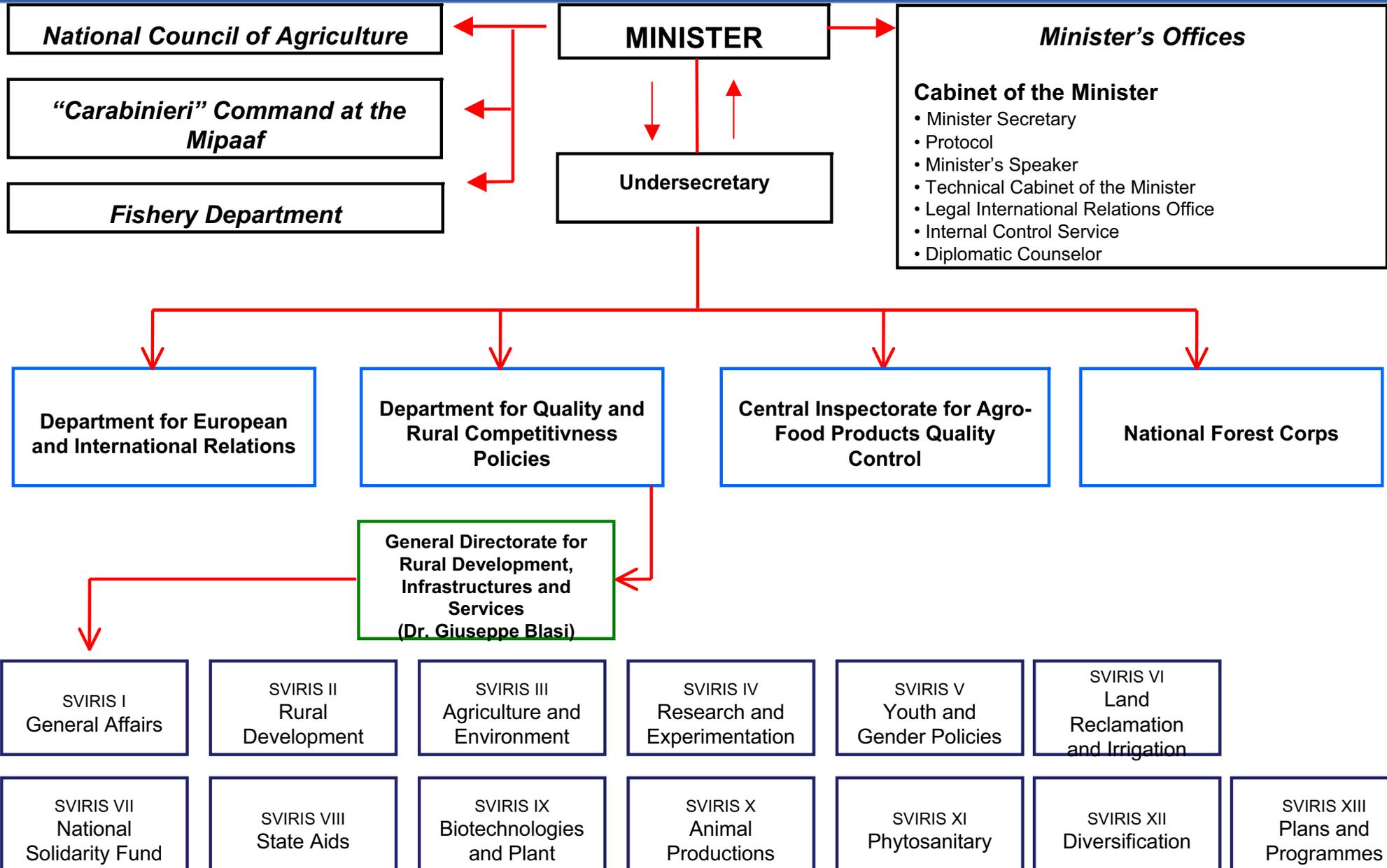
373 Mountain Communities

State-Regions Permanent Conference



The role of the Ministry in rural development

- ✓ Definition and implementation of National strategic plan for rural development
- ✓ Financial coordination for 21 Rural Development Programs and 1 National Rural Network” - National Monitoring Committee (art. 77.3 Reg. 1698/05)
- ✓ Ensuring complementary and coherence among policies
- ✓ Implementation of “National monitoring and evaluation system” (art. 80 Reg. 1698/05)
- ✓ Horizontal issues (cross-compliance and baseline identification, rules on eligibility of expenditure, reductions and exclusion system, etc.)
- ✓ National Rural Network implementation



The regional level

- ✓ Each Region is responsible for the definition of the regional strategy and for the implementation of its own Rural Development Programme (Managing Authority)
- ✓ Some Regions manage RDPs with a centralized method. Other Regions manage RDPs following a decentralized method (involvement of local authorities: Provinces and Mountain Communities)

“State – Regions Permanent Conference”

- ✓ Coordination of all agricultural and rural development policies between Ministry and Regions.
- ✓ *Technical conference*: inside the Permanent Conference. It discuss at technical level all main issues concerning rural development policies.

Rural development measures (EC regulation 1698/2005)

Measures included in a Rural Development Plan are grouped in four axis, plus technical assistance

Axis one: *Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector* (eg, farm modernisation, adding value to agricultural and forestry products, setting up of young farmers; advisory services, participation of farmers in food quality schemes)

Axis two: *Improving the environment and the countryside* (payments to farmers in mountain areas, agro-environmental payments, first afforestation of non-agricultural land)

Axis three: *The quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy* (eg. diversification into non-agricultural activities, basic services for the economy and rural population, encouragement of tourism activities, village renewal and development)

Axis four: *Leader approach* (bottom-up approach; Local Action Groups)

Technical assistance

EAFRD Measures by Axis and Policies (millions euro, including national cofinancing)

AXIS	Public expenditure and %	Main measure of the Axis (%)	On the whole		
				tot	16.605
I (Improving the competitiveness of agricultural and forestry sector)	6.435 (39%)	Modernisation of agricultural holdings (37%) Adding value to agric. and forestry products (19%) Setting up of young farmers (12%)	14% 7% 5%	Diversification, quality of life, Leader (311, 312, 313, 321, 322....) Forestry policy (122, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227)	2760 1861
II (Improving the environment and the countryside)	6.981 (42%)	Agro-environment payments (53%) Natural handicap (mountain area) payments (12%)	22% 5%	agro-environmental policy (211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216) food quality (131, 132, 133)	5342 402
III (Quality of life in rural areas and diversification of rural economy)	1.414 (9%)	Diversification into non agricultural activities (42%)	4%	Structural policies (121, 123, 124, 125, 126)	4468
IV (Leader)	1.346 (8%)	Implementing local development strategies (66%)	5%	demographic policies (112, 113)	858
V (Technical assistance)	429 (3%)			Vocational training, advisory services (111, 114, 115, 511)	914
TOTAL	16.605		100%		

3 - Italy's main features concerning agriculture and rural development

- 1 – Environmental measures and climate change
- 2 – Forestry
- 3 – Landscape
- 4 – Quality products and organic production
- 5 – Agro-tourism
- 6 – Social Farming

Environmental measures and climate change

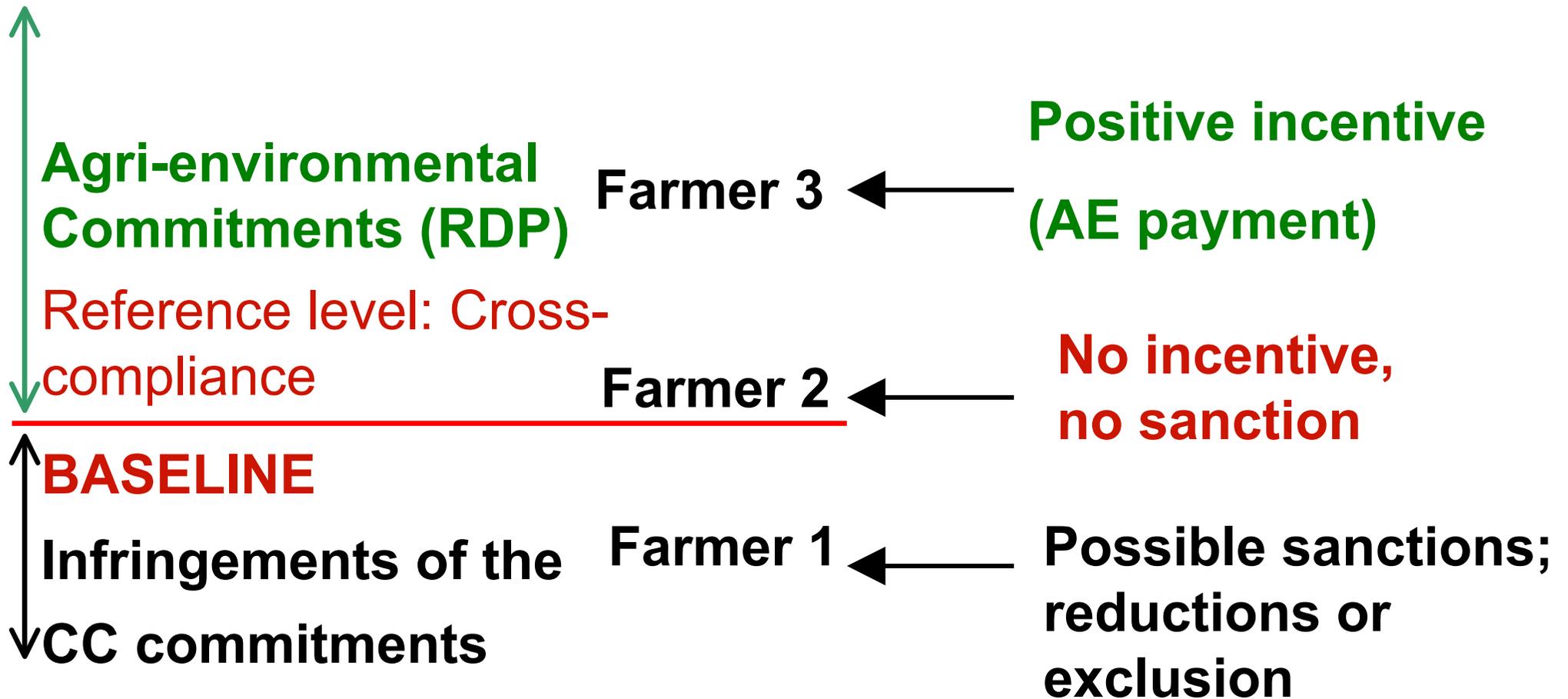
- 1 – **Environmental measures and climate change**
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Environmental measures and climate change

In EU every farm must comply with environmental requirements in order to get public support. Those requirements are described under the so-called Cross Compliance.

Cross Compliance concerns regulations/directives in the field of environment, public and animal health, animal welfare, plant protection products and the maintenance of all rural land in good agricultural and environmental conditions.

The general role of Cross Compliance



Agri-environmental Payments (RDPs)

- Farms are engaged for 5 years to observe measures related to environmental protection and rural land safeguard
 - i.e. Organic farming, integrated agriculture, conservation of landscaped resources
- The incentives balance increased farmer's expenses or the missing yields as consequence of the environmental measures

Cross compliance and Agri-environmental Payments

Some examples

Cross compliance	Agri-environmental Payments
Stop the mono-rotation	Diversify cropping systems
Reduce erosion	Prevent erosion
Preserve soil organic matter	Increase soil organic matter

The Italian position on climate change

- Promote strategies related to climate change mitigation
 - Conservative agriculture, organic farming, forestry management (Carbon sink and emission reductions)
- Set up specific adaptation policies for National agriculture
 - Support scientific research
- Foster energy saving and renewable energy production in agriculture
- The above mentioned concepts are particularly focused on the features of Mediterranean areas

Forestry

- 1 – Environmental measures and climate change
- 2 – Forestry**
- 3 – Landscape
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The Italian Biodiversity

- The presence of complex longitudinal and latitudinal orographic systems,
- The great latitudinal development of the Italian peninsula,
- The proximity of the African and Eurasian continents



That unique elements, combined with the millenary presence of the man and the consequent forest uses give an uncountable varieties of different environments, ecological types, historical background and management

The forests strongly contribute to determinate the Italian landscape

The Italian Biodiversity

A wide varieties of bioclimatic regions and a very rich biodiversity

According to the last surveys, (*Blasi et al. 2007*), the Italian flora counts more than 6.700 species, (118 species tree layer) distributed in seven principal vegetation groups:

- Mediterranean evergreen,
- Mediterranean mountain,
- Sub Mediterranean,
- Sub Continental,
- Continental,
- Alpine,
- Nival

Bio-geographical areas

Mediterranean 52%
Alpine 32%
Continental 16%



ITALY:

- Forestry surface = 10,4 Mha, 34% land covered by forests
- Natural growth rate = + 0.3% year
- Wood production = 8 M m³
- Since 1992 Used Agricultural Area reduction = -12%

Italian Forest resources are distributed

59% in mountain areas

36% hilly areas

5% plains

81% exploitable (no geographical or law limitations)

Property

63,5% private

32,4% public

4.1% n.c.

Wood production in Italy

- Less than 8.000.000 m³
- 60% fuel wood (90% come out from broadleaves formations) of this amount about 90% Mediterranean mixed oaks and more than 50% from coppices in the Central Italy
- 36% (2.398.247 m³) working wood; 60% comes from the north-eastern part of the Country (Lombardia, Veneto, Trentino Alto Adige, Friuli Venezia Giulia) more productive high stem forests
- 55% broadleaves; poplar cultivation only 1% of wooden surface but it guaranties about 36-45% of Italian working wood production

The forest-wood chain in the national economy

Imported wood 14.000.000 m³ per year (mostly raw and semi-finished material)

The first ring of the chain (the wood production) represents only the 0.04 of the GDP

The furniture industry is very important in the commercial Italian balance

Forest-wood 1.5% of total employees, 126.000 enterprises: wood production, transformation in semi-finished material, furniture, commercialisation

The wood-furniture productive system has 2 main chains

- 1) building material, semi-finished material and components for the industry
- 2) furniture industry

87% small enterprises with 3-4 workers; localisation in the NE

3 provinces (Treviso, Udine, Pordenone) produce 38% of the national export of the furniture sector

Axis I: enhancement of the competitiveness of agricultural and forestry sectors

competitiveness of whole sector in particular to the productive chains focusing on :

- Techniques and structures
- Formation
- Management and organisation
- Products and market

7 measures
out of 16

Axis II: **14,58% of public budget 16.604.474.664 euro is dedicated to forestry**

- Ecosystem preservation
- Water and soil protection
- Mitigation of climate change

out of 13

Axis III: quality of life

Enhance the quality of life in the countryside and promoting the diversification of rural economy

5 measures out
of 8

Leader Approach



Axis IV

In Italy the wide geographical and ecological diversity, the historical background and the forest management associated to 21 regional different administrative realities with local competence in forest management (20 regions, 2 autonomous Provinces) offer an impressive range of possibilities for the transfer of experience in forestry

- **Rural development programs and Forestry measures**
- **Forest fires**
- **Forest nursery**
- **Illegal logging survey and action plan**
- **Associated Sustainable forest management**

Landscape

- 1 – Environmental measures and climate change
- 2 – Forestry
- 3 – Landscape**
- 4 – Quality products and organic production
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- 6 – Social Farming

Presence of landscape as a focal element in the Italian RD programming period 2007-2013

- The landscape as a first programming document was elaborated to define the national strategies for the future interventions in the period 2007-2013
- The National Strategic Plan receipt the proposed elements from the programming doc
- In the Italian Rural network a specific working group was created to afford the topic “rural landscape”
- Document Rural development and Landscape
- Special projects
 - a) Catalogue of rural landscapes of historical interest**
 - b) Support to the implementation of rural landscape conservation and valorisation**

Axis I - Improving competitiveness

“landscapes as an “added value” for the rural territory in order to develop a “competitive identity”

- *1- favor a strong link between quality of local products and uniqueness of local landscapes*
- *2 - valorization of landscape resources for tourism and agri tourism*

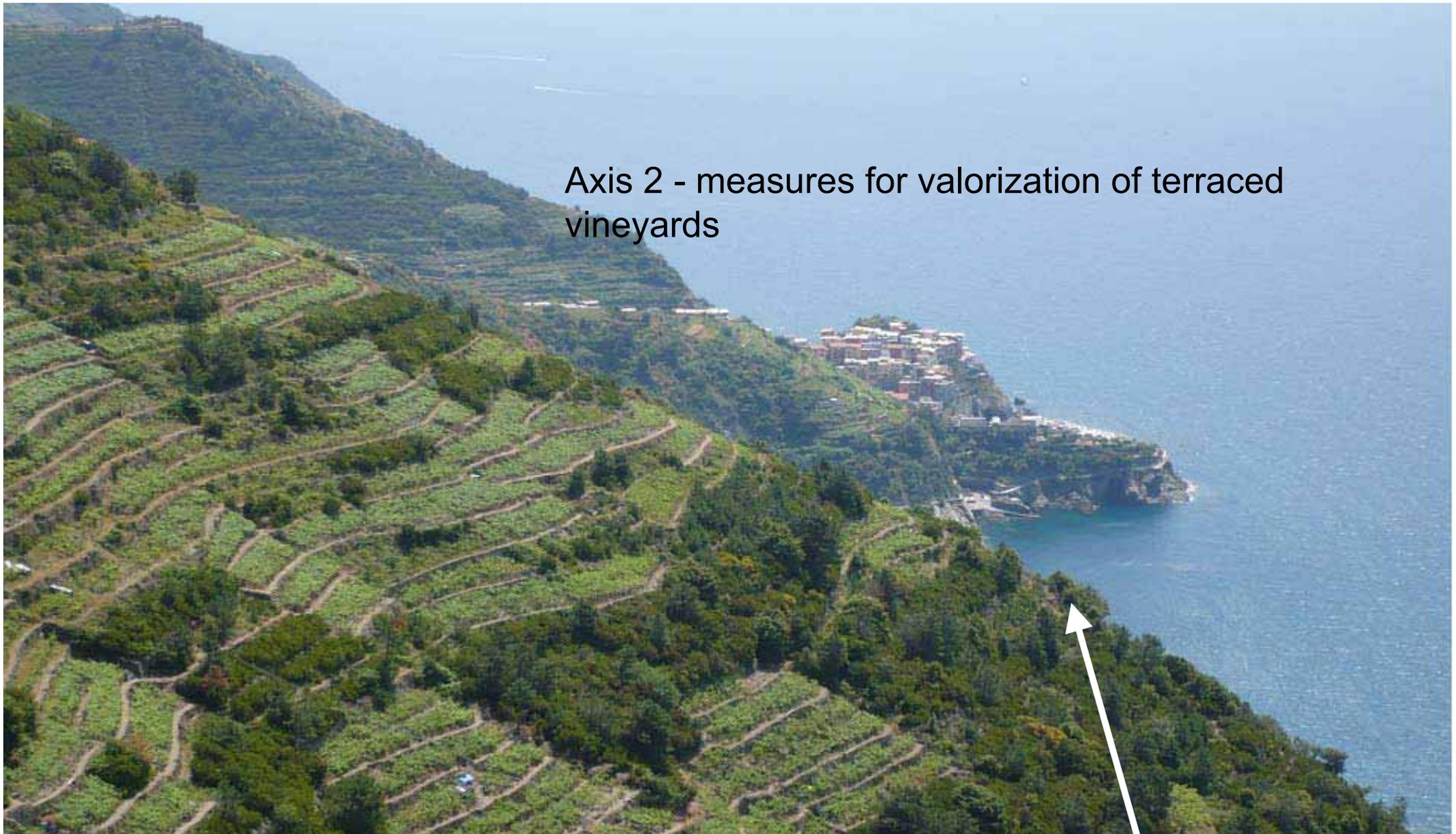
Axis 2 - conservation of terraced almond orchards





Axis 2 - conservation of
traditional olive orchards



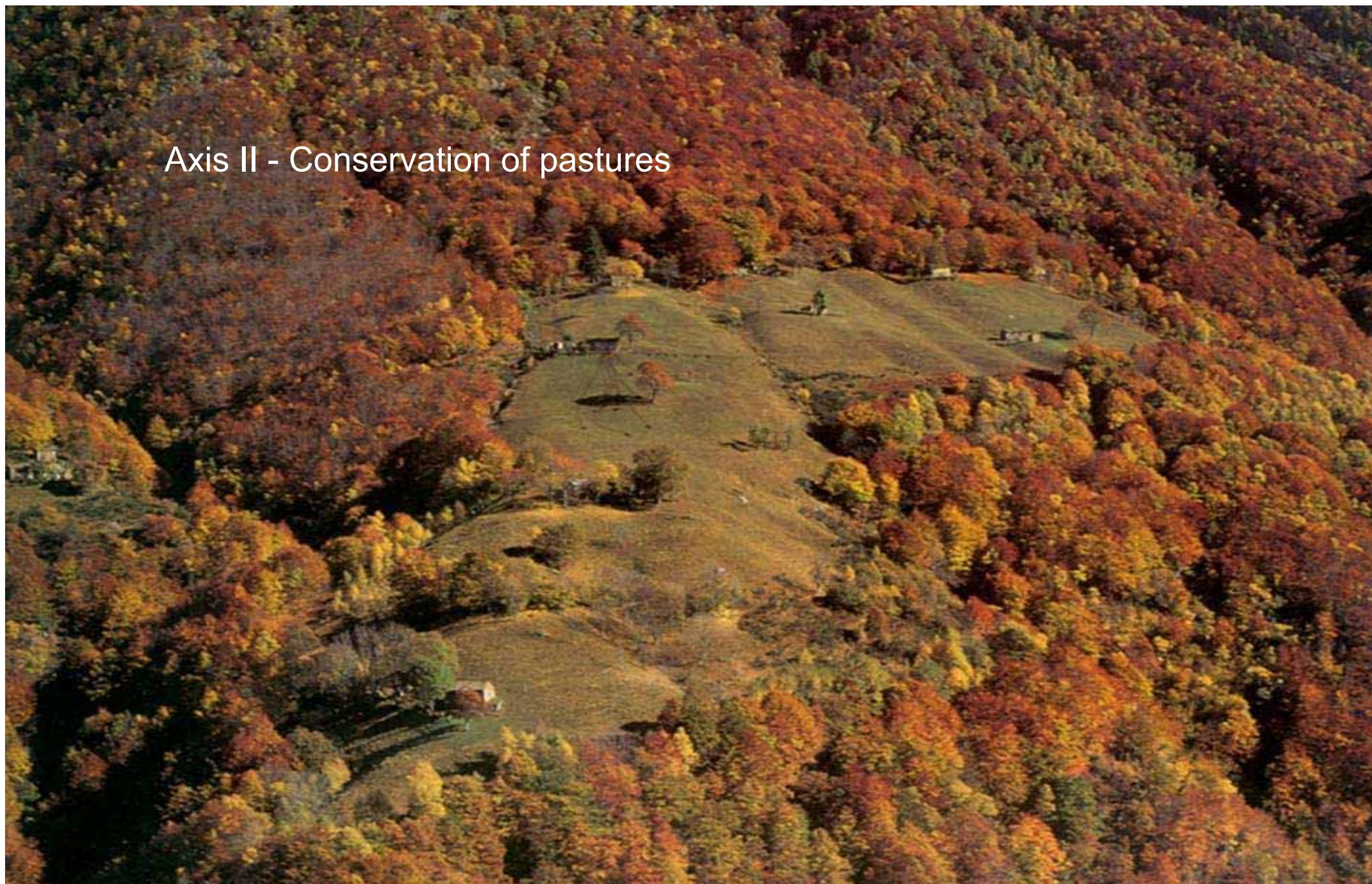


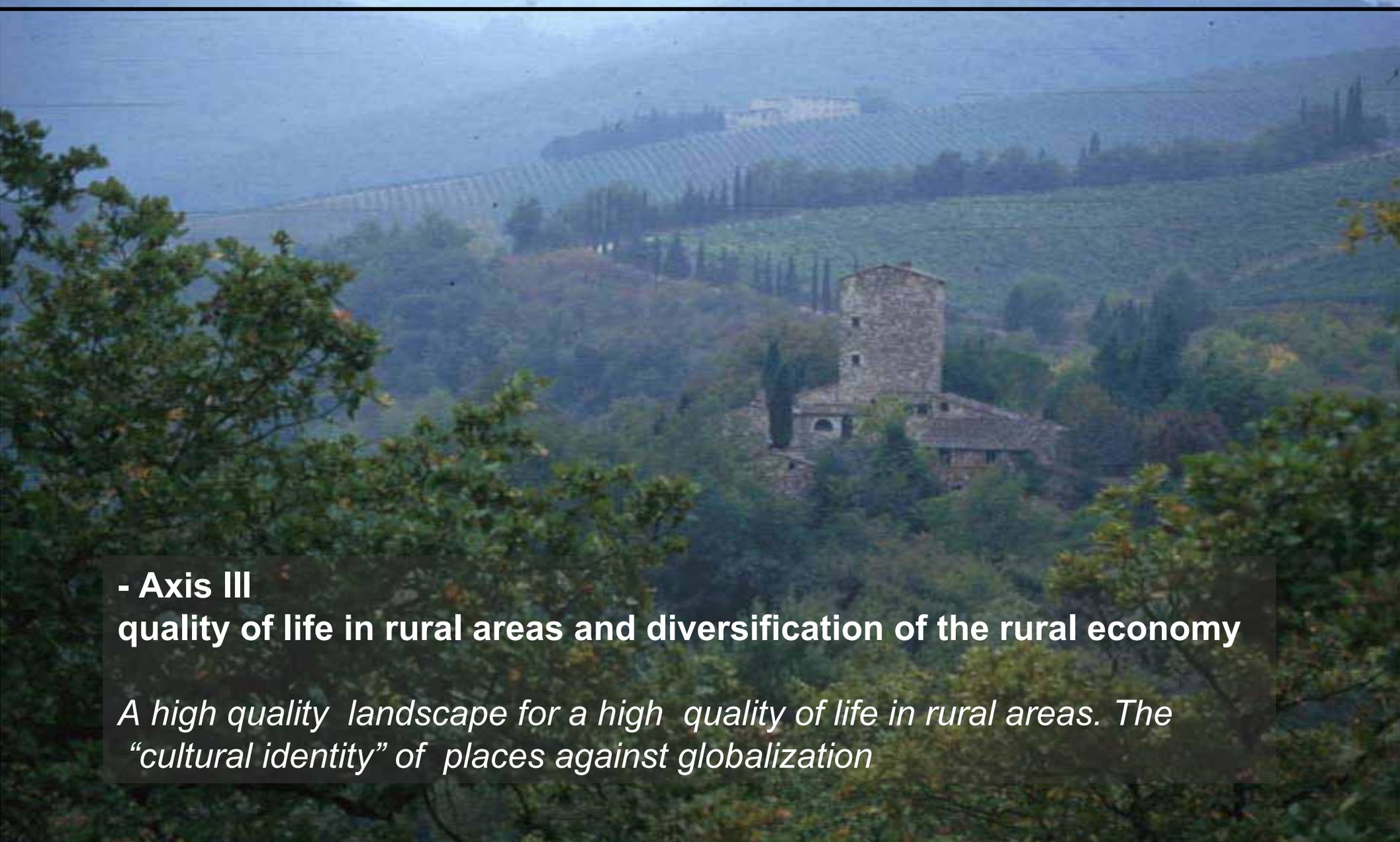
Axis 2 - measures for valorization of terraced vineyards



Axis 2 - conservation of traditional viticulture

Axis II - Conservation of pastures





**- Axis III
quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy**

*A high quality landscape for a high quality of life in rural areas. The
“cultural identity” of places against globalization*



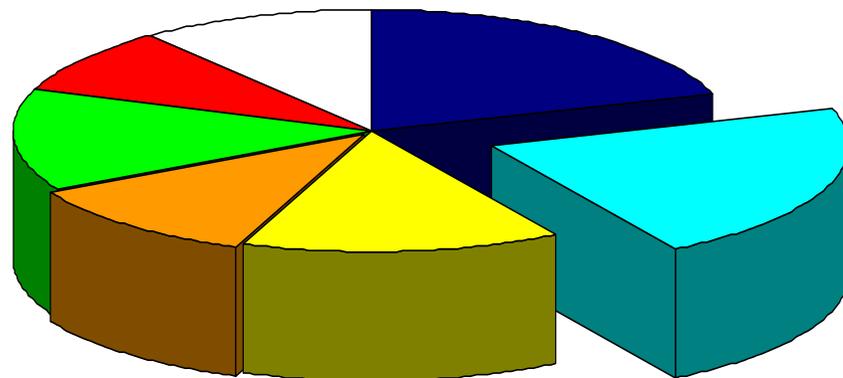
Quality products and organic production

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✓ Quality products



Total PDO & PGI products in the European Union = 877 DATA Updated January 2010



ITALY

22,3 %

n.196 QUALITY PRODUCTS

ITALY 1st EU Country for **PDO & PGI** products

Annual turnover of the n.196 Italian PDO PGI products (**10 billions Euro**) of which 85 % coming from the market sell of quality cheeses and cured meats.

Most of Italian PDO and PGI products are exported.

✓ Organic farming

49.654 organic farms (2008 data)

1.002.414 ha (2008 data) ◇ 14 % of EU organic farming surface

3.600.000 livestock units

1 milion of ha "*Integrated agriculture*"

Italy leader in EU
for n. of organic farms
for n. of ha cultivated with Integrated pest method

RDP Support “*Integrated agriculture*” and “*Organic farming*”

- **Organic Agriculture: average RDP support per ha → 250 Euro**
- **Overall organic surface in Italy 1.002.414 ha**
- **Total RDP support (per year) for organic agriculture (250.603.500 Euro)**

- **“*Integrated pest method agriculture*”: average RDP support per ha → 172 Euro**
- **Overall “*integrated pest method*” surface in Italy 1.000.000 (esteem) ha**
- **Total RDP support (per year) for “*integrated pest method agriculture*” (172.000.000 Euro)**

Agro-tourism

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✓ Agro-tourism

Agro-tourist farms provide for accommodations; catering; recreational activities; direct products selling

18.480 farms in 2008
19.000 trend for 2009

51,4 % located in hilly areas
34,4 % located in mountain areas



Italy leader in EU for n. of agro-tourism farms

RDP Support for Agro-tourism

RDP 2000-2006

- Expenditure for agro-tourism/Rural tourism:
480 Meuro
- N. of beneficiaries: **6.500**
- Increase of the annual income: 11.000 Euro

RDP 2007-2013

- Expected expenditure for agro-tourism/Rural tourism:
700 Meuro
- Expected N. of beneficiaries: **9.300**

Social farming

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✓ Social Farming

Farms offering “green care”+ education activities

Mostly located near the urban poles or in very remote rural areas

•In Italy 2.000 social farms

- ✓ 51 % farms (mostly managed by young farmers and women)
- ✓ 25,5 % social communities
- ✓ 23,5 % social cooperatives



Thank you for your attention

For further information:

www.politicheagricole.it/svilupporurale

www.reterurale.it



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Rete Rurale
Nazionale
2007.2013

