

# **RDP support to conservation agriculture practices in Italy**

**Danilo Marandola**

Policy&Bioeconomy Centre of CREA (Rome)

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Ministero delle politiche agricole alimentari e forestali

Via XX Settembre, 20 – Roma

[reterurale@politicheagricole.it](mailto:reterurale@politicheagricole.it)

[www.reterurale.it](http://www.reterurale.it) - [@reterurale](https://www.facebook.com/reterurale) - [www.facebook.com/reterurale](https://www.facebook.com/reterurale)



## Context

# IT NRN thematic Project «PACA»

- Support to national/regional authorities
- Efficient/effective implementation of EU RDP AEC (Agro-environmental-climate) payments
- Focus on M.10 AEC Payments (and related measures)



## Focus on **SOIL COINSERVATION**:

- ✓ NETWORKING stakeholders of different italian regions
- ✓ P2P info sharing among farmers and decision makers
- ✓ Information&research actions
- ✓ Integration of measures (M.10 -> M.1-2-4-11-12-16)

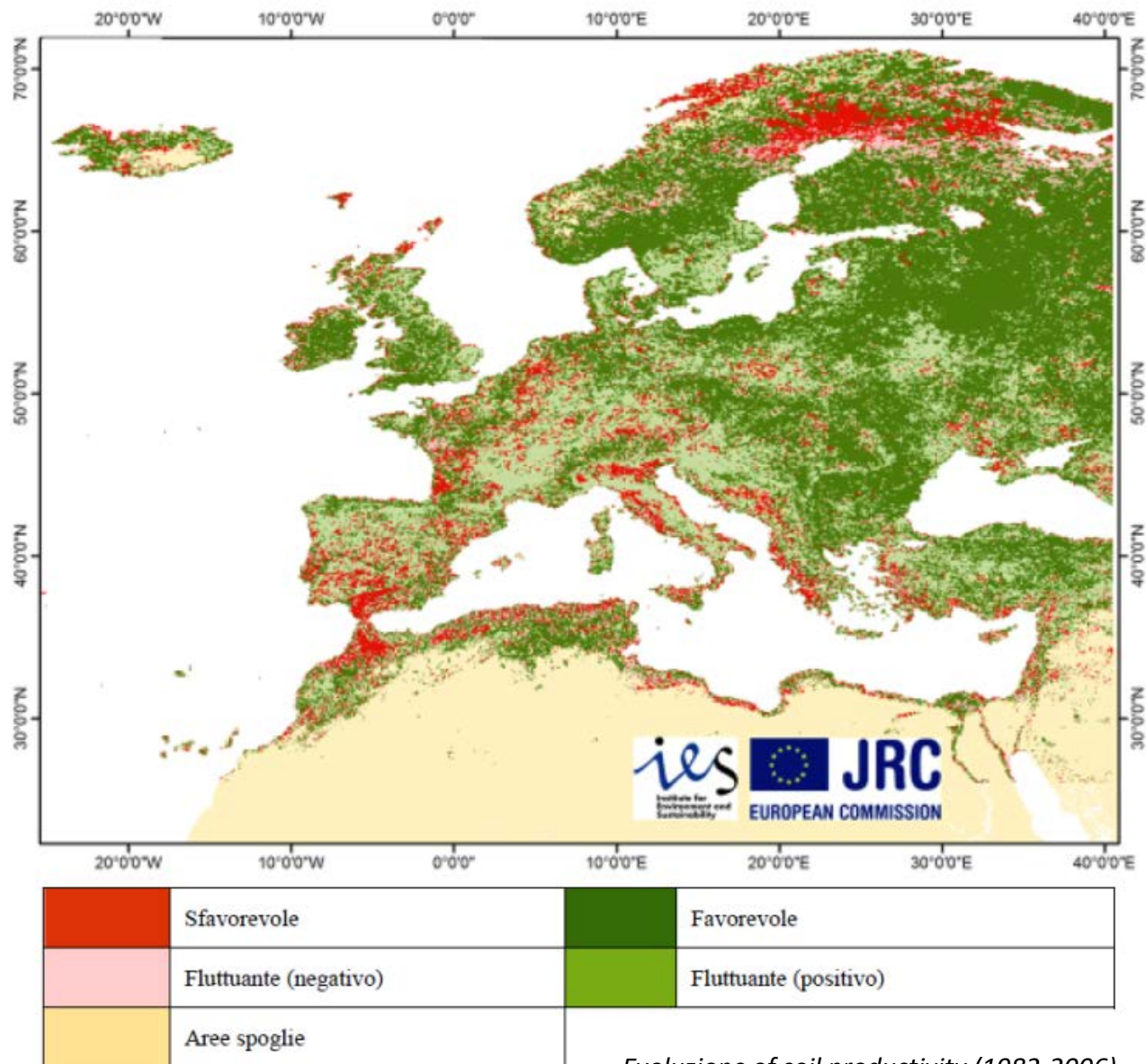


# RDP actions to promote soil conservation in ITALY

Italy's RDPs budget to support soil conservation actions is  
**3,5 billions euro**  
targeting **2,5 Mha** of agr/forest land

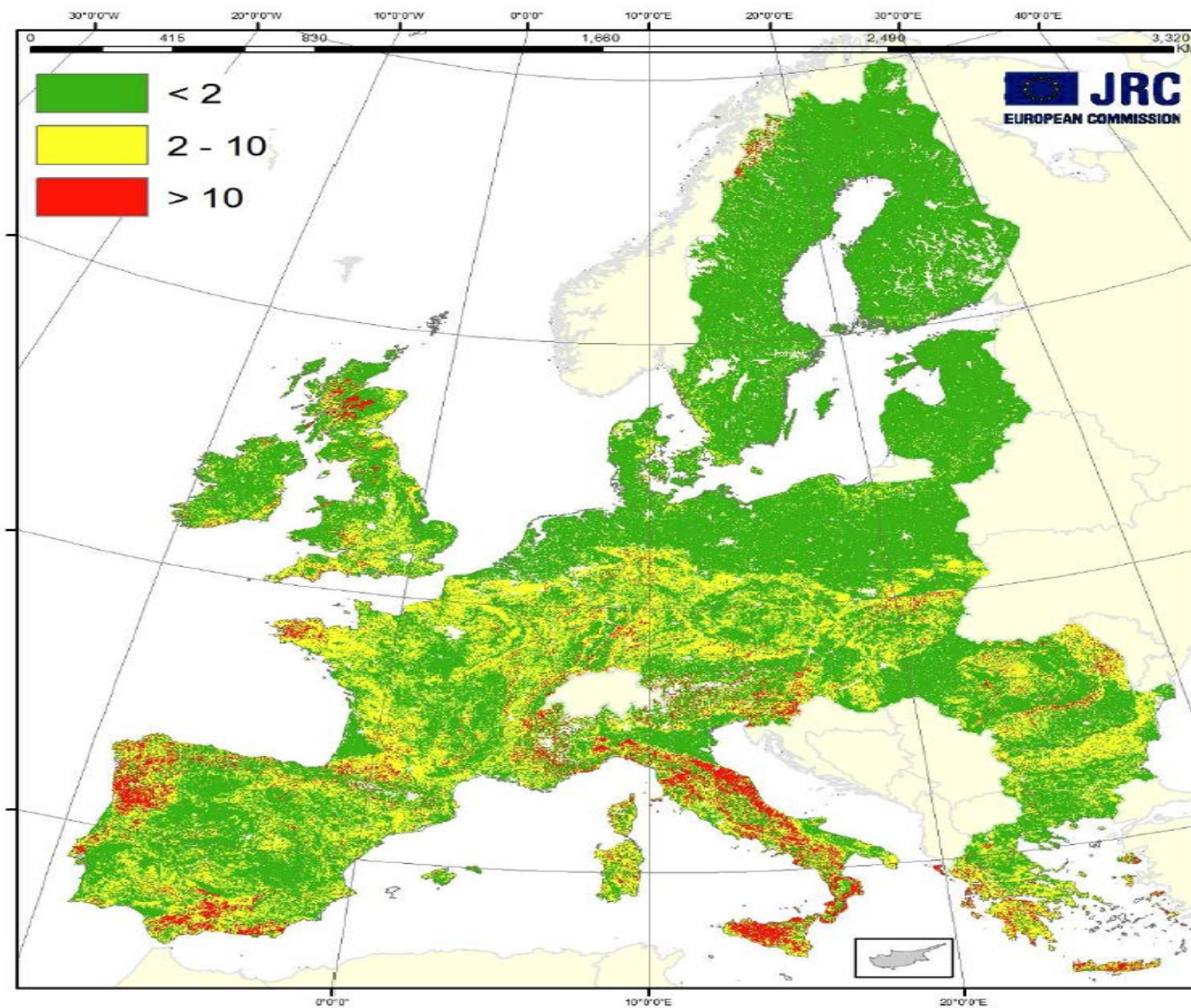


<i>Focus area</i>	<b>Peso sul totale risorse Psr</b>
4a) biodiversità e assetto paesaggistico	17,5%
2a) migliorare le prestazioni economiche di tutte le aziende agricole e incoraggiare la ristrutturazione e l'ammodernamento delle aziende agricole	14,8%
3a) filiera agroalimentare	12,9%
2b) favorire il ricambio generazionale	8,5%
6b) stimolare lo sviluppo locale nelle zone rurali	8,5%
4b) gestione delle risorse idriche, compresa la gestione dei fertilizzanti e dei pesticidi	8,3%
4c) prevenzione dell'erosione dei suoli e migliore gestione degli stessi	6,2%
5e) promuovere la conservazione e il sequestro del carbonio nel settore agricolo e forestale	4,7%
6a) favorire la diversificazione, la creazione e lo sviluppo di piccole imprese nonché dell'occupazione	2,5%
Assistenza tecnica	2,5%
5c) favorire l'approvvigionamento e l'utilizzo di fonti di energia rinnovabili, sottoprodotti, materiali di scarto e residui e altre materie grezze non alimentari	2,0%
5d) ridurre le emissioni di gas a effetto serra e di ammoniaca prodotte dall'agricoltura	1,9%
5a) rendere più efficiente l'uso dell'acqua nell'agricoltura	1,8%
3b) sostenere la prevenzione e la gestione dei rischi aziendali	1,8%
5b) rendere più efficiente l'uso dell'energia nell'agricoltura e nell'industria alimentare	1,7%
1b) rinsaldare i nessi tra agricoltura, produzione alimentare e silvicolturale ricerca e innovazione	1,6%
1a) stimolare l'innovazione, la cooperazione e lo sviluppo della base di conoscenze nelle zone rurali	1,2%
6c) promuovere l'accessibilità, l'uso e la qualità delle tecnologie dell'informazione e della comunicazione (Tic) nelle zone rurali	1,0%
1c) apprendimento lungo tutto l'arco della vita e la formazione professionale	0,7%
<b>Totale</b>	<b>100,0%</b>



*Evoluzione di soil productivity (1982-2006)*





Soil erosion in EU(t/ha/year)

## RDP TARGETS (IT)

### 4C – Soil erosion & management

- **15.8 %** of agricultural land under management contracts to improve soil management and/or prevent soil erosion

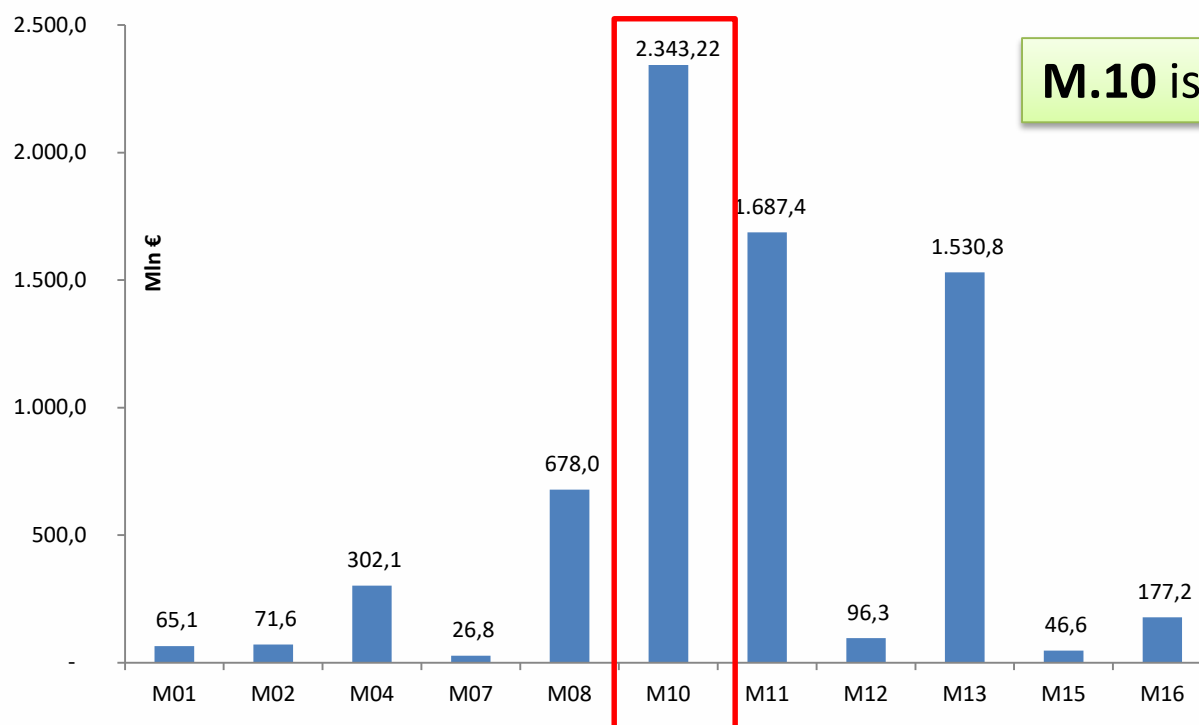
### 5E – Carbon conservation & sequestration

- **6.5%** of agricultural and forest land under management contracts contributing to carbon sequestration or conservation



# Main measures to target AEC priorities

Total RDP Budget devoted to P4&P5 in IT



**M.10** is the most relevant to P4

Elaborazione su dati fonte <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu>





# Measure 10

## ...a «hinge» tool joining:

- **Different AEC themes (i.e. resource eff.)**
- **Different EU and National AEC-related policy**



# MEASURE 10 A.E.C PAYMENTS

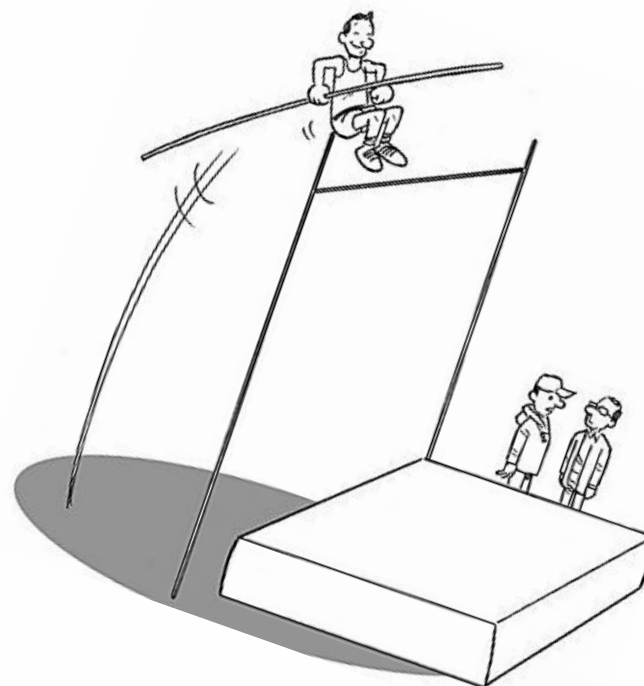
Payments (euro/ha/year ) for farmers who undertake on voluntary base AEC commitments to be respected for 5-7 years on the same land.

Compensation for:

- Additional costs
- Income foregone

due to the respect of the AEC commitments,  
**beyond CAP Cross-compliance**

- Not a prize for environmental results,
- nor a payment for ecosystem services



# CROSS-COMPLIANCE (I)

- Set of basic rules **related to the main public expectations on environment, public and animal health, as well as, animal welfare**
- In order to receive payments, farmers shall respect a set of basic rules. Farmers not respecting EU law on environmental, public and animal health, animal welfare or land management will see the EU support they receive reduced.

**Cross-compliance covers two elements:**

- **STATUTORY MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS (SMRS):**  
13 legislative standards in the field of the environment, food safety, animal and plant health and animal welfare.
- **GOOD AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS (GAECS)**  
The obligation of keeping land in good agricultural and environmental condition refers to a range of standards related to **soil protection, maintenance of soil organic matter and structure**, avoiding the deterioration of habitats, and water management.

## CROSS-COMPLIANCE (II)

**STATUTORY MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS (SMRS) also refer to directives and regulations (apply also to farmers not receiving the CAP support):**

- **Public, animal and plant health:** General Food Law, Hormones ban Directive, Regulations on identification and registration of pigs, bovine, ovine and caprine animals, Regulation on prevention, control and eradication of TSE, **Regulation on plant protection products (pesticides)**;
- **Animal welfare:** Directives on the protection of calves, pigs and animals kept for farming purposes;
- **Environmental protection:** Nitrates Directive, NATURA 2000 Directives (wild birds and habitats).

## CROSS-COMPLIANCE (III)

GAEC are designed specifically for farmers receiving CAP payments.

A set of standards designed to:

- **prevent soil erosion:** Minimum soil cover, Minimum land management;
- **maintain soil organic matter and soil structure:** Maintenance of soil organic matter level;
- **biodiversity and ensure a minimum level of maintenance:** Retention of landscape features including ban on cutting hedges and trees during the bird breeding and rearing season;
- **protect and manage water:** Establishment of buffer strips along water courses, authorisation on water for irrigation and protection of ground water against pollution.



ANNEX II

RULES ON CROSS-COMPLIANCE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 93

SMR: Statutory management requirement

GAEC: Standards for good agricultural and environmental condition of land

Area	Main Issue	Requirements and standards		
Environment, climate change, good agri- cultural condition of land	Water	SMR 1	Council Directive 91/676/EEC of 12 December 1991 concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources (OJ L 375, 31.12.1991, p. 1)	Articles 4 and 5
		GAEC 1	Establishment of buffer strips along water courses <sup>(1)</sup>	
		GAEC 2	Where use of water for irrigation is subject to authorisation, compliance with authorisation procedures	
		GAEC 3	Protection of ground water against pollution: prohibition of direct discharge into groundwater and measures to prevent indirect pollution of groundwater through discharge on the ground and percolation through the soil of dangerous substances, as listed in the Annex to Directive 80/68/EEC in its version in force on the last day of its validity, as far as it relates to agricultural activity	
	Soil and carbon stock	GAEC 4	Minimum soil cover	
		GAEC 5	Minimum land management reflecting site specific conditions to limit erosion	
		GAEC 6	Maintenance of soil organic matter level through appropriate practices including ban on burning arable stubble, except for plant health reasons <sup>(2)</sup>	

## M.10 for the sustainable use of SOIL

Combating soil erosion and degradation

- No Tillage
- Minimum tillage
- Strip tillage
- Cover crops in tree plantations

Increasing soil Organic matter

- Organic matter inputs
- Green fallow
- Cover crops in arable land

Promoting Integrated crop management

- Integrated management of soil

# M.10 for soil conservation: 480 M. euro - 330.000 ha target

## 16 RDPs

1. *Piemonte*
2. *Lombardia*
3. *Veneto*
4. *Friuli*
5. *Emilia Romagna*
6. *Toscana*
7. *Umbria*
8. *Lazio*
9. *Abruzzo*
10. *Molise*
11. *Campania*
12. *Basilicata*
13. *Puglia*
14. *Calabria*
15. *Sicilia*
16. *Sardegna*

### Target:

- Reduce Soil erosion
- Promote Carbon sequestration

**DEDICATED SUPPORT TO  
NO-TILL FARMING AND  
CONSERVATION  
AGRICULTURE ->**

**Budget: 280 M. euro**

**Target area: 191.758 ha**



# M.10 CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE OPERATIONS

## COMMITTMENTS:

- ✓ No-Till and/or Minimum tillage
- ✓ Crop rotation
- ✓ Soil cover (residues + cover crops)

## Additional:

- Cover crops
- Manure application



## «Hot» themes - herbicides

Conservation agriculture needs herbicides for weed control → Glyphosate debate in progress

Little knowledge about Organic No-Till

Challenges: combination Organic No-Till

- in Molise M.10 Molise, herbicides are forbidden
- In Tuscany and Abruzzi M.10 support for No-Till can be combined with M.11





# Cover Crops as additional commitment

Cover crops are one of the pillars of Conservation agriculture

Why make them as additional commitment?

- Difficulties in identifying additional costs and income forgone for compensation
- Herbicides are forbidden in many cases for control



# Other types of Conservation agriculture

- **Sardegna, Calabria, Lazio, Lombardia, Piemonte, Veneto, Campania, Emilia-Romagna, Lombardia, Puglia** also envisage Minimum and/or strip tillage techniques
- **How to control&verify «minimum» tillage?**
- **Depth? Soil disturbance?**
- **Which are the effects on soil erosion?**



**Towards result-based measures!!**





# Payments (euro/ha)

- Sometimes difficult to be determined on consideration of No-double funding with Pillar I and other operations of M.10
- 55 euro/ha (Lombardy) - 600 euro/ha (Veneto)



# Ongoing results of M.10

- Waiting for official data on beneficiaries
- Where allowed, the possibility to choose among commitments NoTll vs Minumum tillage, seems to push MT -> impacts? Problems?
- Rules and bureaucracy limits for this kind of agriculture -> expert NT farmers do not apply and «new-adopters» are not attracted by payments



## ✓ «Inner» competition with other M10 operations (or other measures)

- May regions deduced to forbid combination with other M.10 payments (or payments from other measures such as M.11) to avoid no-double funding calculations and control
- In these regions farmers preferred to apply for «low-risk» M.10 operations as «Integrated pest management»





## Other elements

- ✓ **Dedicated Machineries** are missing in many areas
- ✓ **Advisory, training and information services** are weak, even if required by Regulations and sometimes listed as M.10 commitments



# **Conclusions&tips**

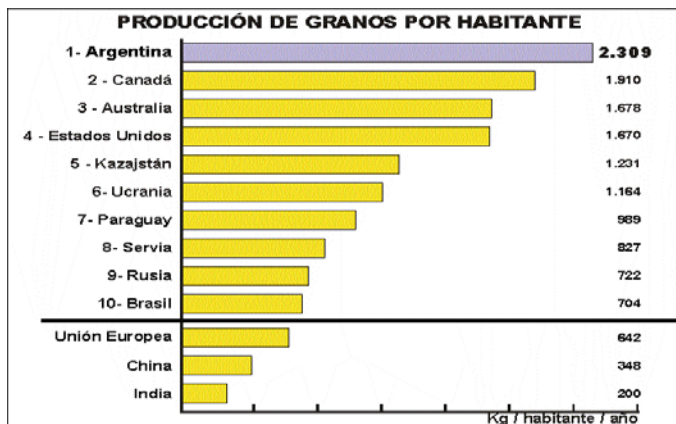
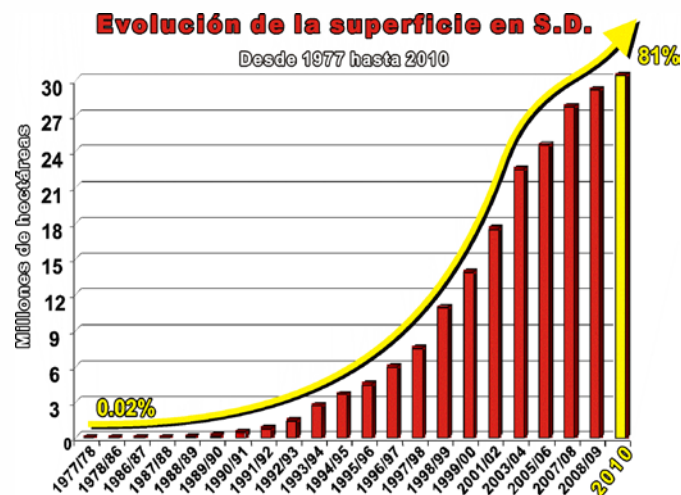
**....to make RPDs contribution to soil conservation more effective...**

**WHAT RRN 2014-2020 CAN DO TO FILL THE GAPS**

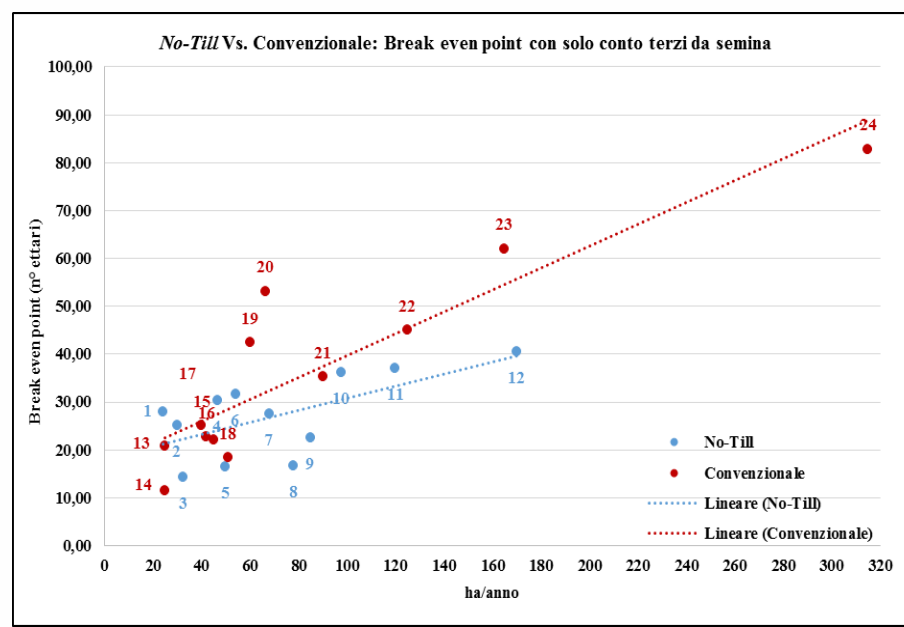
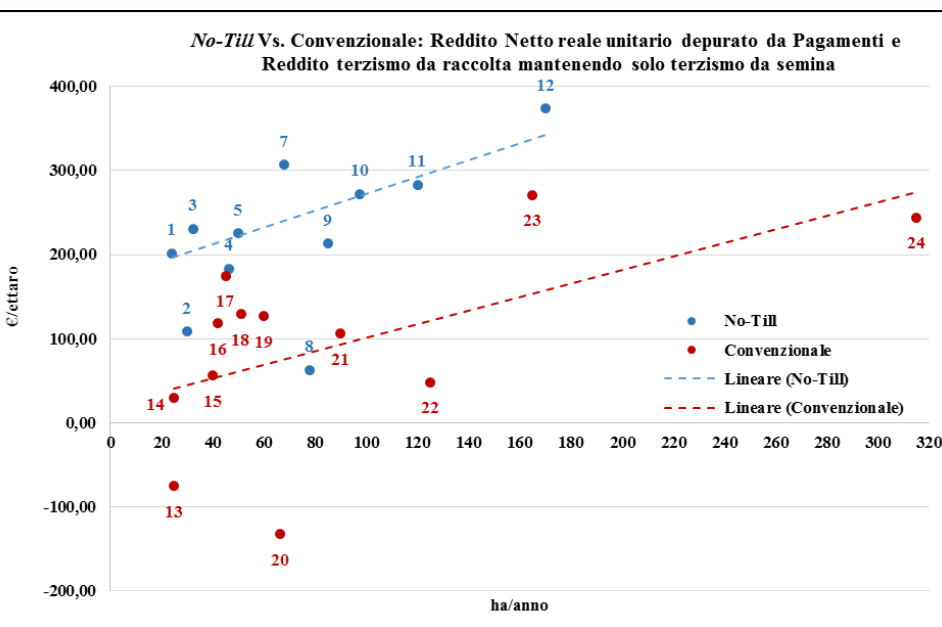
Punti di forza	Punti di debolezza
Motivazioni aziendali e congiunturali	<b>Mancanza di sistemi di consulenza dedicati</b>
Esistenza di esperienze aziendali	<b>Mancanza di azioni sistemiche di connessione</b>
Esistenza di esperienze progettuali e «reti»	Inesperienza di agricoltori e decision makers
Interesse istituzionale	<b>Limiti schema P-ACA</b>
Interesse degli agricoltori	Mancanza di conoscenze e informazione
Produzione integrata - uso del suolo	Mancanza di tecnologie sul territorio
Cumulabilità e sinergia fra interventi	<b>Scarsa sinergia con M1-2</b>
	Preparazione e predisposizione contoterzisti
	Scarsa propensione dei sistemi ad alta redditività

Opportunità	Minacce
Esistenza di pagamenti a superficie	Competizione con «altre agricolture» e misure
Azioni collettive	Glifosate e prodotti di sintesi
Miglioramento competitività aziende	<b>Atteggiamenti opportunistici dei beneficiari</b>
Sostenibilità ambientale	Disinteresse degli agricoltori «esperti»
Reti allargate di condivisione di esperienze	<b>Fallimento bandi – futuro disinteresse UE</b>
M16 - Go	Cambiamento climatico
Cambiamento climatico	Aumento input chimici
	Piccole dimensioni aziendali

# No-till revolution is worldwide oriented to profitability

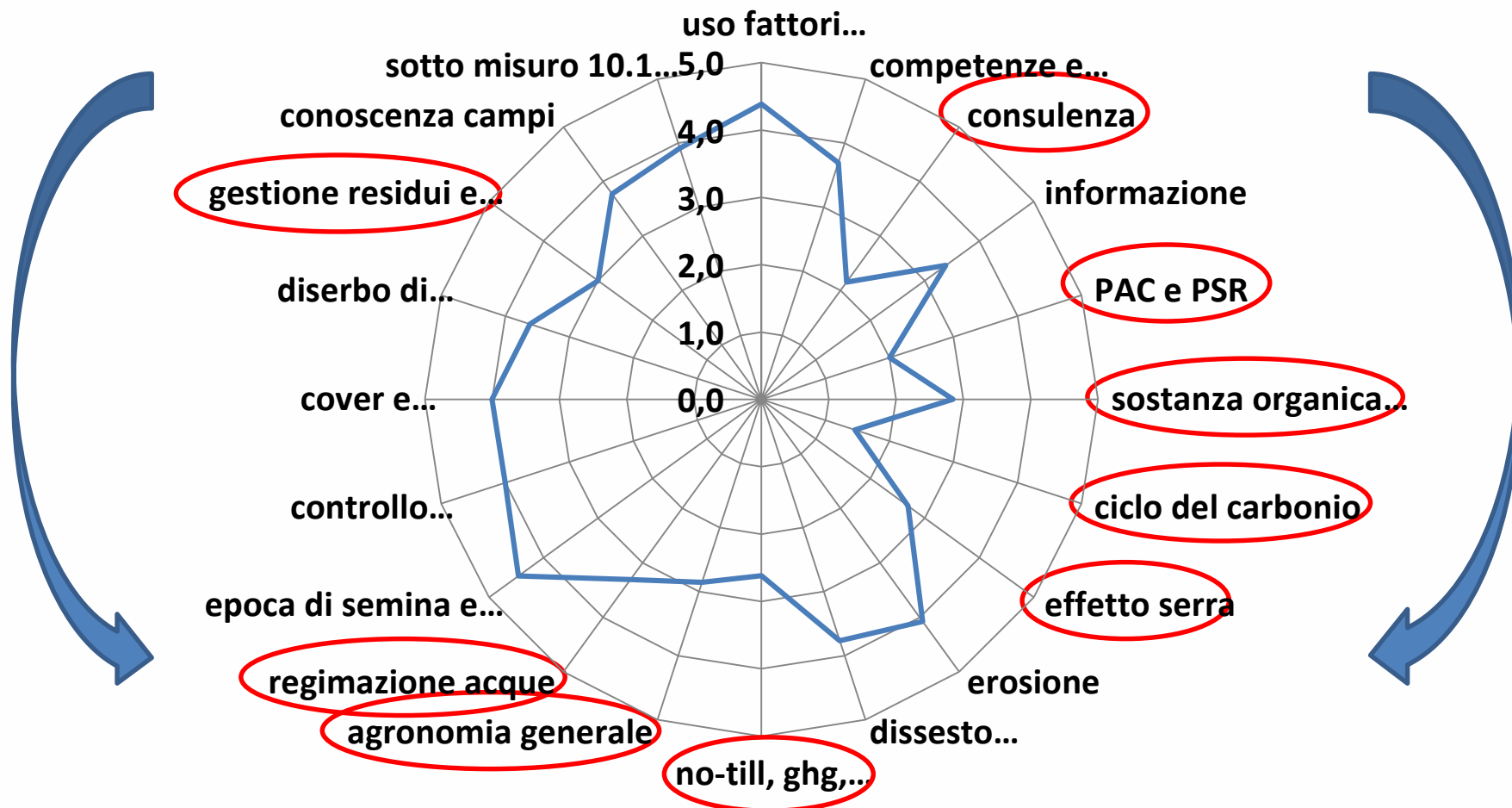


# Hard to determine additional costs-income forgone in all cases





# It's also (maily) a matter of knowledge and know how



### Motivation GAP

- Payments preceived as income support more than support for committments
- More intensive farmers are entrepreneurs who tend to make low-risk choices to save income «sustainability is not profitability»
- No-till can get different meanings depending on the area/farm: payments can determine over/under compensation depending on farm/area

### Knowledge GAP

- Notill measure require kow how and support/advicce
- Demonstation and P2P experience sharing is needed more than a compensation payment

### Policy GAP

- Need to develop result-oriented payments for soil conservation
- Need to strenghten integration between measures (M1-2-16)
- Need to **synchronize timing and implementation of different measures**

# **What RDPs must do to make support to soil conservation more effective**

- ✓ **Dedicated and oriented information and support actions -> M1-2**
- ✓ **More tailored AEC payments -> improved negotiation with beneficiaries, ex-ante analysis, more sensitive indicators for guiding&evaluating policies**
- ✓ **Strengthen links with research and innovation -> M16**
- ✓ **Strengthen links with other measures to create indirect support -> M.3-4**
- ✓ **Strengthen links with other EU Funds and Programmes -> Life**
- ✓ **More networking between stakeholders of different policy**

# Next steps for RRN

- ✓ Develop knowledge and methodology for «SOIL CONSERVATION COLLECTIVE ACTIONS within RDPs»
- ✓ Develop knowledge and methodology for «SOIL CONSERVATION RESULT-BASED payments»
- ✓ CREATE a network of pilot farms in 16 regions
- ✓ CREATE a network of SOIL EIP OGI (IT and EU)
- ✓ Promote study visits and exchange
- ✓ **March 2018: conference with ENRD in APULIA for Managing authorities on RPD soil conservation priorities and measures**



# Thank you for your attention!

**Danilo Marandola**  
[danilo.marandola@crea.gov.it](mailto:danilo.marandola@crea.gov.it)

