

ITALY

Biodiversity's restoration, preservation & enhancement

Location

Sardara

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

P4 – Ecosystems
management

Measure

M11 - Organic
farming

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 15 000
EAFRD 7 200
National/Regional 7 800

Project duration

2018 – 2023

Project promoter

Azienda agricola "STF S.R.L.
SEMPLIFICATA AGRICOLA"

Contact

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Website

n/a

A Sardinian agricultural company applied for RDP support in order to maintain its organic agriculture production systems.

Summary

The newly formed agricultural company 'STF S.R.L. Semplificata Agricola', is located in the municipality of Sardara, in the province of Southern Sardinia. The company has a diverse production system including arable crops, vegetable production both outdoors and in greenhouses, as well as vineyards.

All of the farm's crops had been converted into organic, even before the new company was formed, and thus the owners applied for RDP support in order to maintain the practice of organic agriculture.



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Results

The continuation of organic agriculture will allow the hydrogeological protection on the farm's soil, the conservation of biodiversity, as well as the absorption of atmospheric carbon.

The planned activities will also allow to create added value by combining the protection of the landscape and its resources for the future, while producing high quality healthy products.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ Overall, such synergies between the adherence to the organic production methods and compliance with quality production systems, can boost the competitive and sustainable development of agriculture.

Context

The company 'STF S.R.L. Semplificata Agricola' was created from the merger of the farm run by Stefano Scintu and company 'Nuovi Giardini', which was managed by Stefano's sister. The new company formally acquired the farm's land in January 2017 and now applies organic cultivation methods. At that time, the owners also formally announced the start of company's activity to both the Control Body S.r.L. and the Autonomous Region of Sardinia. The farm is located in the municipality of Sardara, in the province of Southern Sardinia, and it is directly managed by Stefano.

The company's production system is quite varied, ranging from the production of vegetables in greenhouses and in open fields, to forage crops and grain cereals, while there are also vineyards of wine grapes. The coverage currently extends to about 47 hectares, divided into 11 plots, all of which are easily connected by the local road network. The company submitted an application to receive support for organic agriculture, with the exception of some parcels which were already certified as organic.

Objectives

The objective of this project was to practice organic agriculture on the whole farm and in this way to contribute to improving soil and water quality, mitigating and adapting to climate change and improving the state of biodiversity.

Activities

The farm had completed the required conversion to organic agriculture by 06/30/2016. From 2009 to 2013, all the arable crops on the farm were cultivated with alfalfa. This is a crop that was sown, irrigated and harvested without any help from synthetic chemicals. All the land used for alfalfa production was severely damaged by the calamitous flooding events of autumn 2013. These events did not allow for any use of the land during that year,

except to produce fodder to be allocated to the local livestock farms. From 2014 onwards, all arable crop production was again carried out without any use of synthetic chemicals, favouring minimum processing, allocating large areas to forage crops and natural pastures, using mostly non hybrid seeds.

The production in the greenhouses had been already certified as organic. The vineyards are also cultivated without the use of synthetic chemicals, weed control is done mechanically and wettable sulphur in powder is used against cryptogams.

The company intends to start the cultivation of chilli peppers in an open field, and to increase the production of vegetables both in open fields and in the greenhouses. The production will continue to be carried out in full compliance with the rules of organic production as laid down by EC Regulation 834/2007. Given that the conversion period has been terminated, no activity attributable to conventional agriculture is now carried out in the farm. All the surfaces will be managed with organic system for at least five years with respect to the measure commitments.

Main results

The continuation of organic agriculture will allow for the hydrogeological protection on the farm's soil, the conservation of biodiversity, as well as the absorption of atmospheric carbon.

The planned activities will also create added value by combining the protection of the landscape and its resources for the future with the production of high quality healthy products.

Main results

Overall, such synergies between the adherence to organic production methods and compliance with quality production systems, can boost the competitive and sustainable development of agriculture.

Additional sources of information

n/a