

SWOT of RDP support to conservation agriculture practices in Italy

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Context

IT NRN thematic Project «PACA»

Support national/regional authorities
in the efficient implementation of
EU AEC (Agro-environmental-climate)
Policy -> M.10 AEC Payment and related measures

Focus on **Conservation agriculture:**

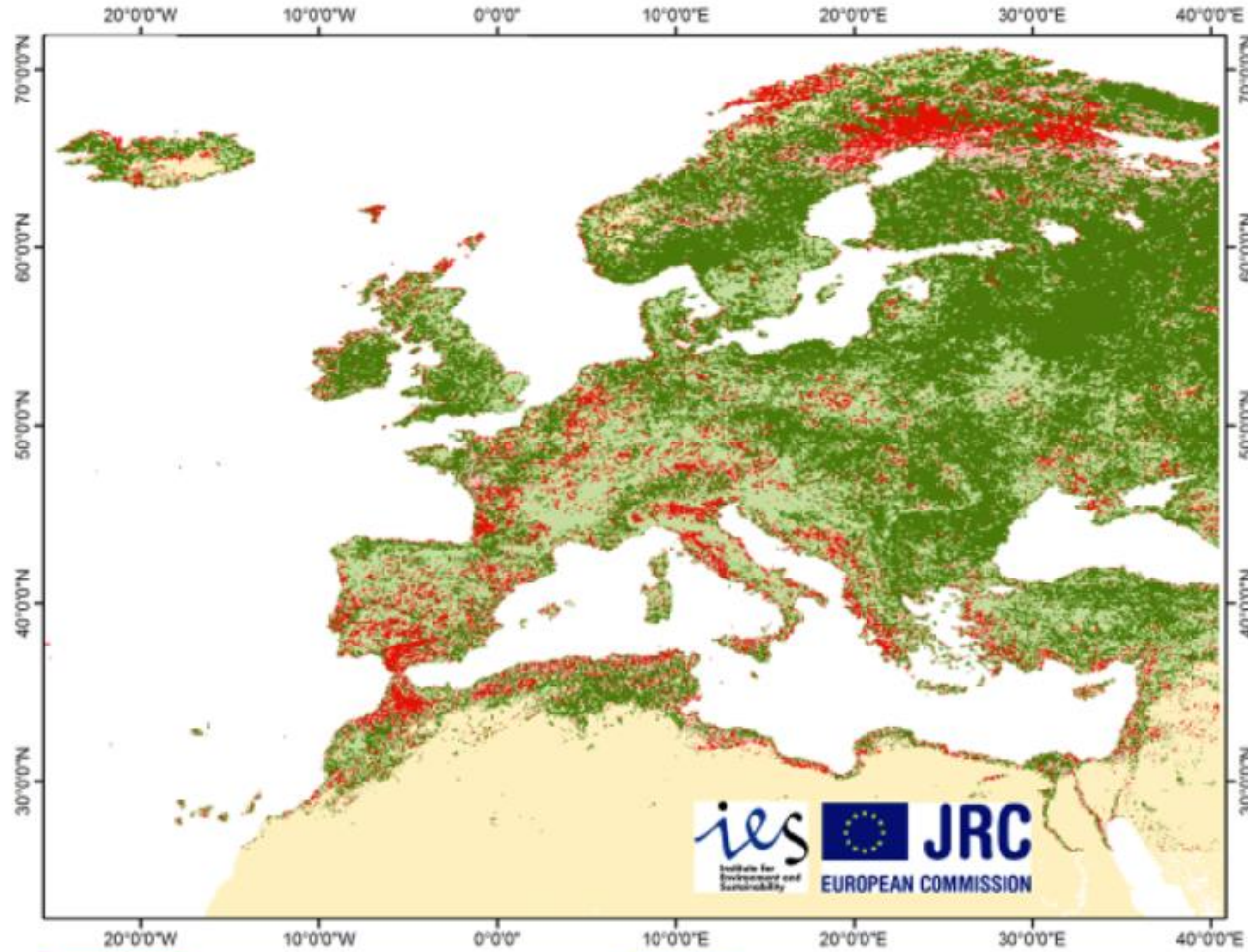
- ✓ NETWORKING stakeholders of different italian regions
- ✓ P2P info sharing among farmers and decision makers
- ✓ Information&research actions
- ✓ Integration of measures (M.10 -> M.1-2-4-11-12-16)



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



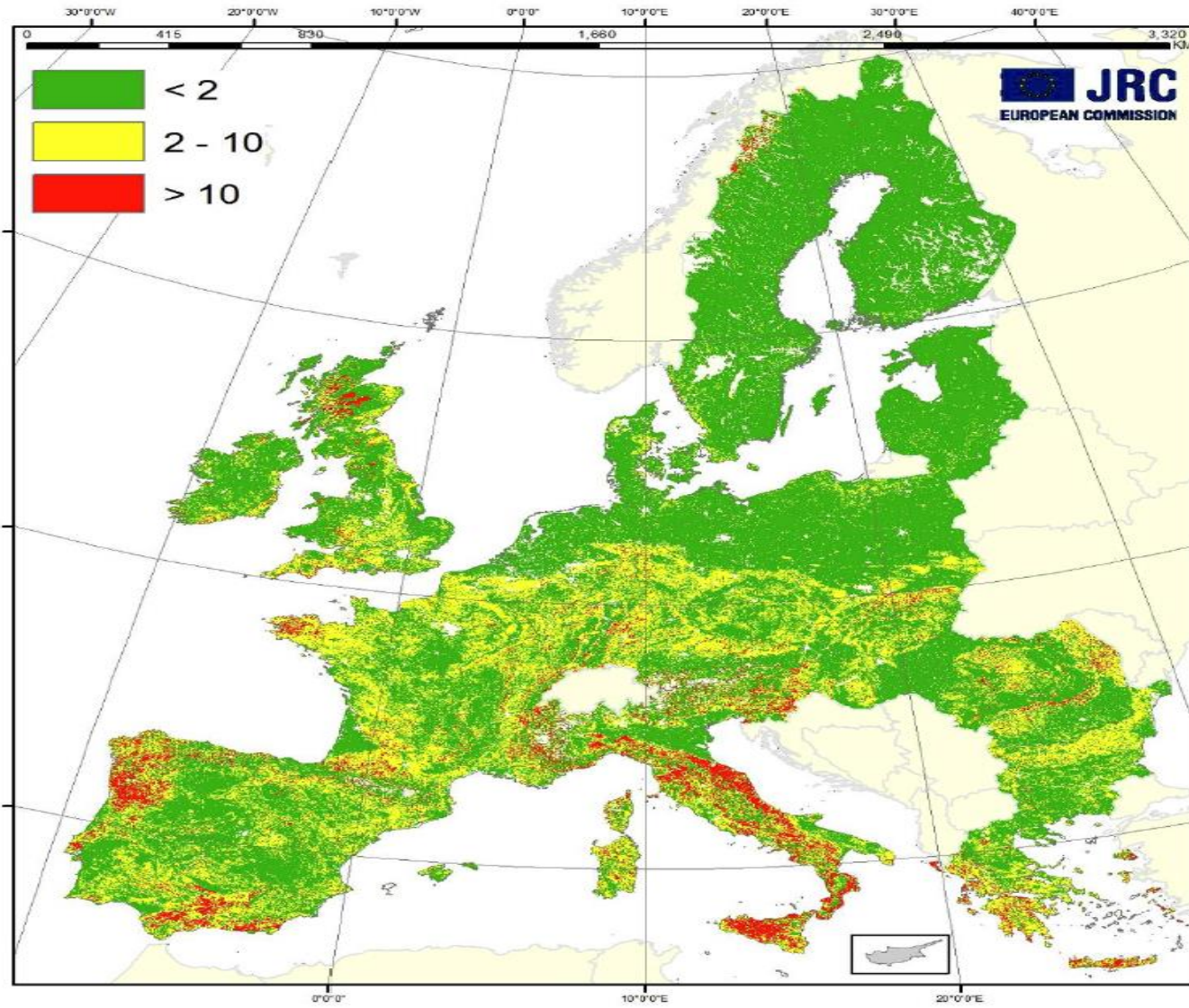


ies
Institute for
Environment and
Sustainability

JRC
EUROPEAN COMMISSION

	Sfavorevole		Favorevole
	Fluttuante (negativo)		Fluttuante (positivo)
	Aree spoglie		

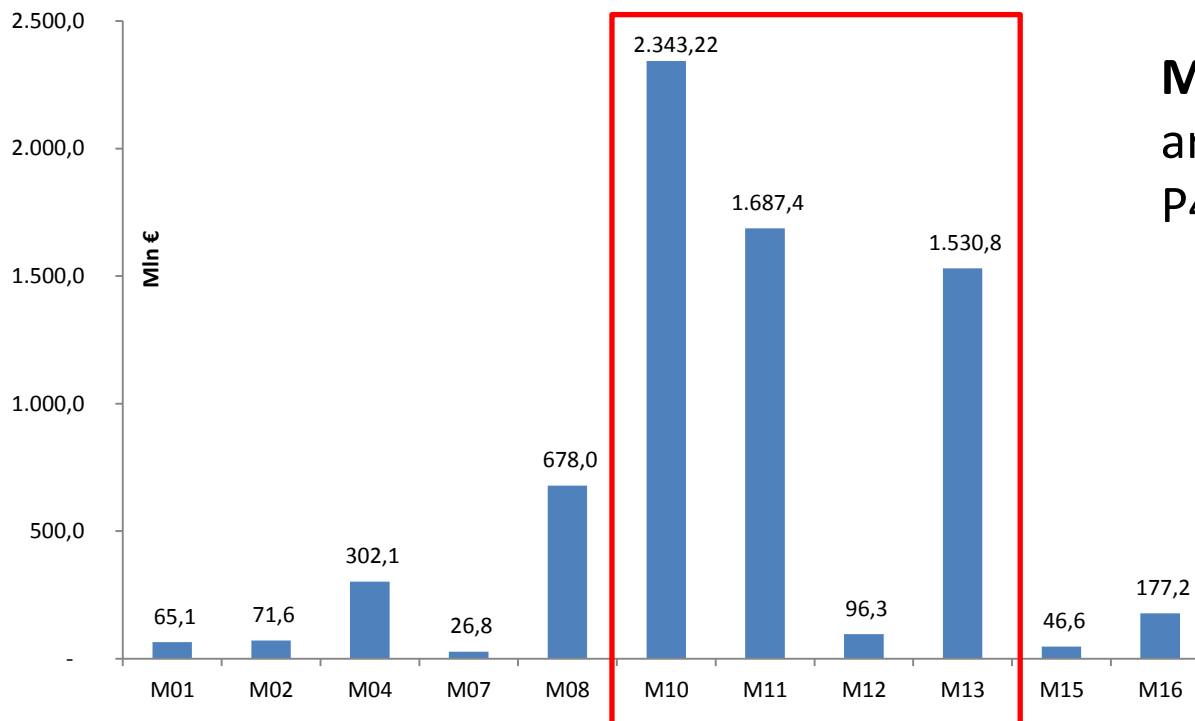
Evoluzione of soil productivity (1982-2006)



Soil erosion in EU(t/ha/year)

Main measures to target AEC priorities

Total RDP Budget devoted to P4&P5 in IT



M.10-11-12-13
are the most relevant to
P4.

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

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 conditions

M.10 for soil conservation

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*

480 M. euro

330.000 ha of target surface

Target:

- Soil erosion
- Carbon sequestration

**DEDICATED SUPPORT TO
NOTILL FARMING AND
CONSERVATION
AGRICULTURE**

Budget: 276.990.636 ha

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 NoTII vs Minimum 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

May regions deduced to forbid combination with other M.10 payments 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**

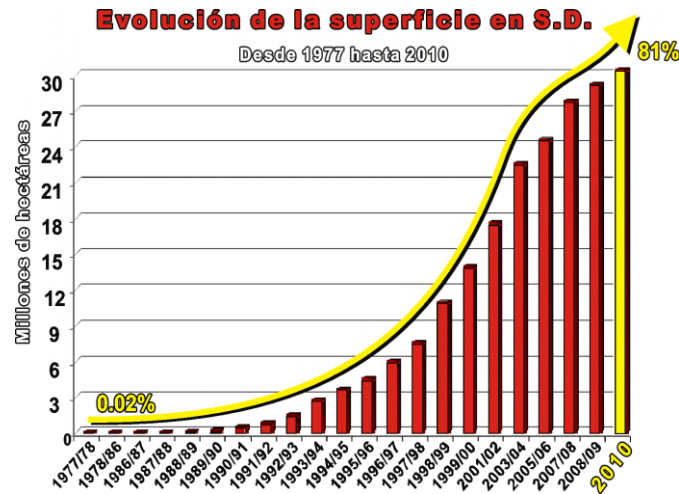




Conclusions&tips

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

No-till revolution is worldwide oriented to profitability

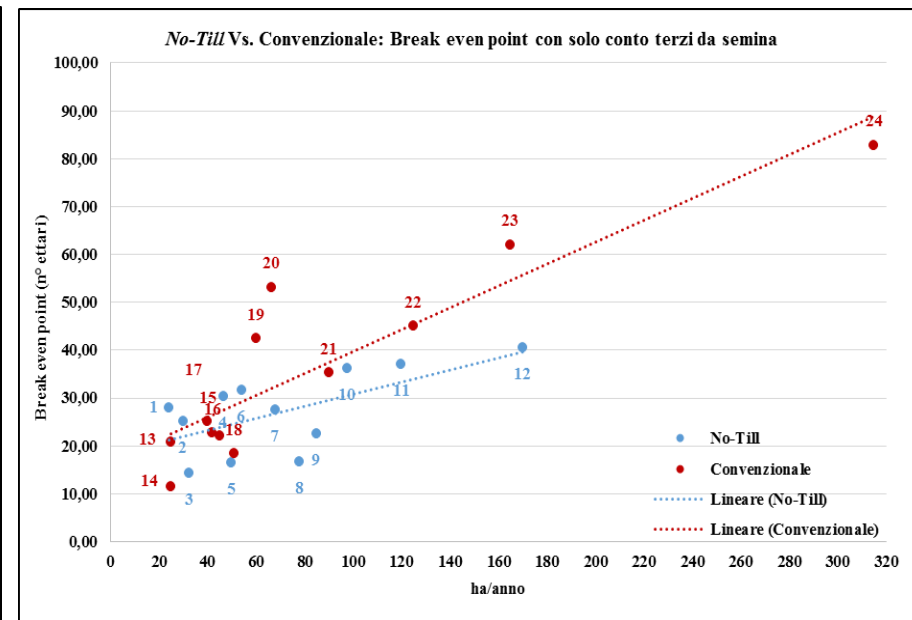
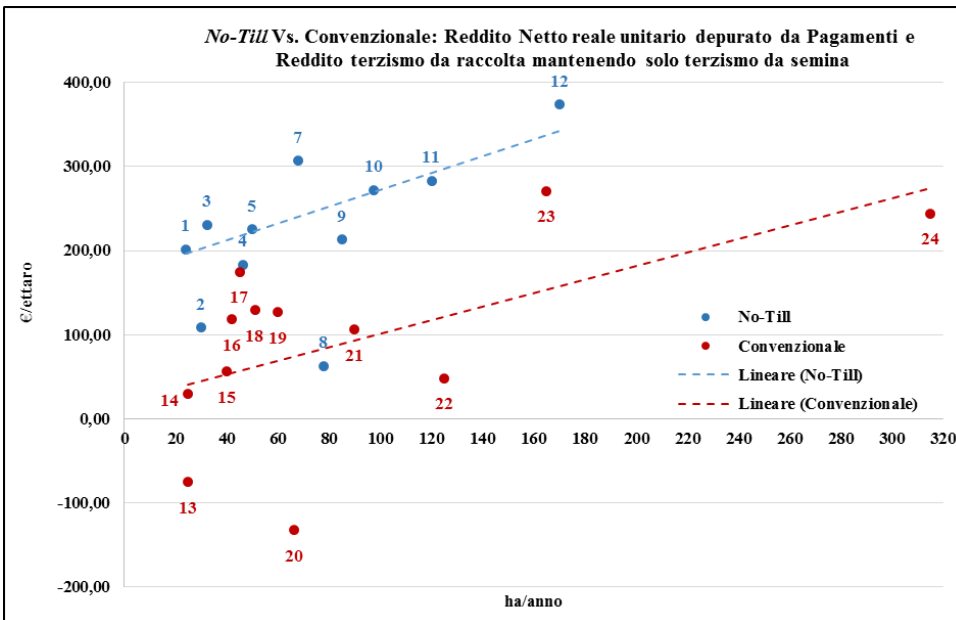


PRODUCCIÓN DE GRANOS POR HABITANTE

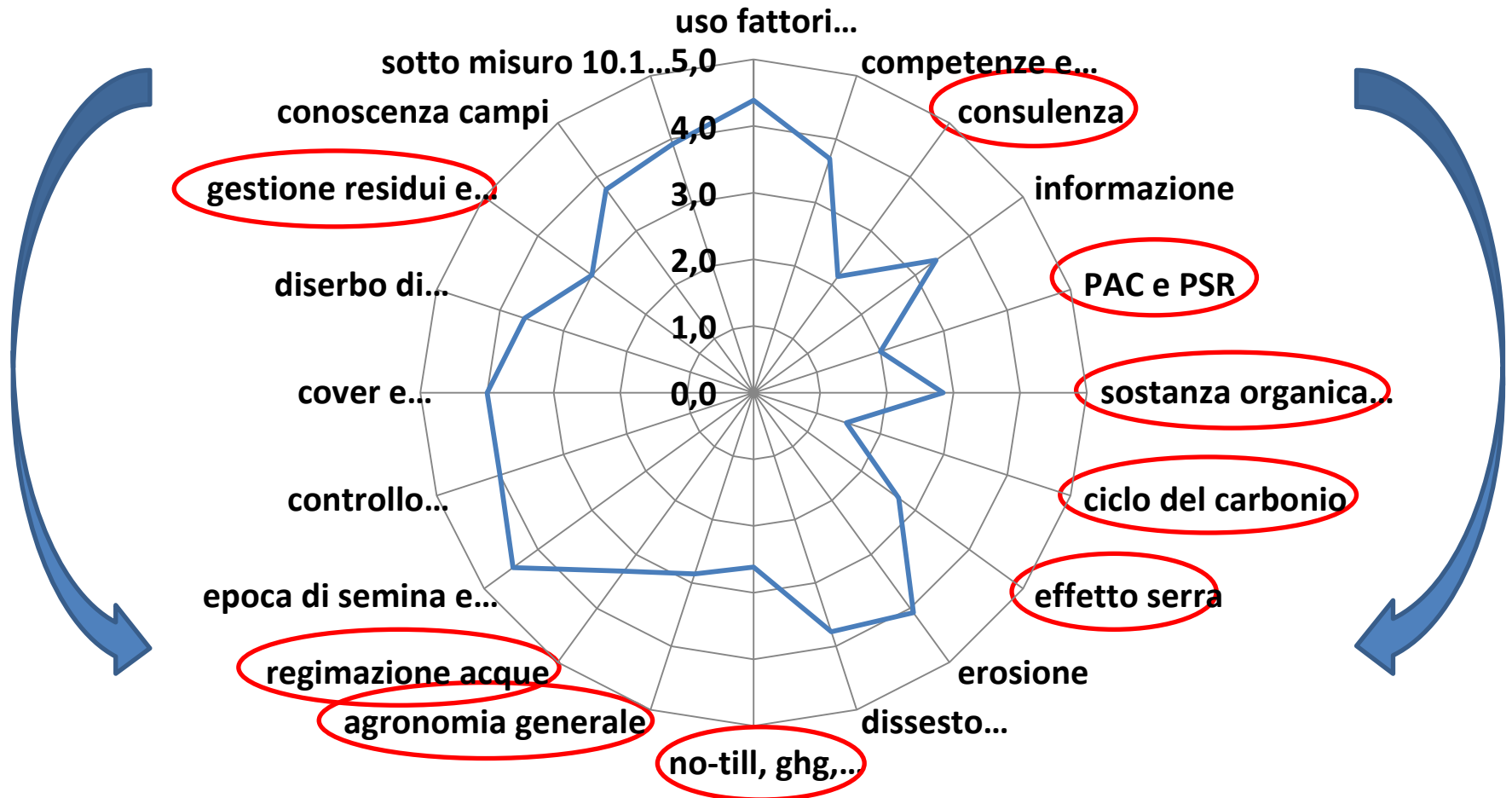
1- Argentina	2.309
2 - Canadá	1.910
3 - Australia	1.678
4 - Estados Unidos	1.670
5 - Kazajstán	1.231
6 - Ucrania	1.164
7 - Paraguay	989
8 - Serbia	827
9 - Rusia	722
10- Brasil	704
Unión Europea	642
China	348
India	200

Kg / habitante / año

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»
- Notill 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



Topics for group work

- ✓ Are there other MS with RDP payments devoted to NoTill?
- ✓ How are measures working there?
- ✓ How much is notill spread in your country?
- ✓ Are you interested in joining study-visits in Italy?
- ✓ Are you interested in creating a network for exchange?
- ✓ Are there OG on Notill in your country?

- ✓ **March 2018: conference in Italy with ENRD**



**Thank you for your
attention!**

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