

Practice SQ n° 10

ORTOBIOATTIVO: AGROECOLOGY FOR THE SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION OF NUTRACEUTICAL VEGETABLES

Introduction

Category: Research Innovation (RI)

Practice identity card

#Vegetable cultivation, resilient plants

#SQ, food, ornamental, industrial, Research Innovation (RI), Italy



Short description

- Development and adoption of a new agronomic approach for vegetable cultivation called “Ortobioattivo. This model focuses on the quality of the substrate/soil and the microbiological biodiversity contained therein as a fundamental element for the cultivation of healthy plants, capable of defending themselves almost autonomously from pathogens and capable of being naturally rich in nutrients of interest for human health (nutraceutical bioactive substances).

Implementation process

Which practice is considered as the standard in this region? Generally, use of fertilizers or bio fertilizers.

What was the on-farm issue/challenge/opportunity that led to the implementation of the practice? The creation and management of a bioactive garden are easy to implement, and this makes the system replicable and transferable not only in horticultural companies present in the area affected by the cooperation project but also in those present in other regional and extra-regional territorial realities.

How long did it take to implement the practice and which are the measures needed to monitor: It took 32 Months

Logistics

- **Logistic aspects to consider:** Not in particular
- **Skill/education level required:** rather low

Agronomical traits

- **Can the practice be applied to a multitude of cultivation techniques?** Horticulture cultivation
- **Targeted crop categories:** food, ornamental, industrial
- **Soil types suitable for the practice:** peaty, clay, sandy, loamy, chalky, silty
- **Expected effect on crop yield:** similar
- **Expected effect on crop yield variation:** similar
- **Expected effect on crop quality:** increase
- **Expected effect on crop quality variation:** increase
- **Which costs may increase due to the practice?** skilled labour
- **Which costs may decrease due to the practice?** fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, land, energy
- **Expected long-term/indirect economic benefits of the practice:** Yes
- **Expected effect on the leaching of nutrients:** there are not leaching
- **Specific materials applicated through the practice:** micro-organisms, agricultural residues, plant extracts

Administrative context

- **Does the practice qualify for subsidies?** Yes
- **Status of the legal framework that regulates the practice:** well-developed
- **Are there any policy barriers complicating the practice's application?** No
- **Does the practice involve the use of hazardous substances?** No
- **Is the practice compliant with EU organic farming practices?** Yes
- **Is the practice supported by Eco-schemes?** Yes
- **Are there any gaseous emissions to be considered upon application of the practice?** No
- **Expected effects from the practice on the time occupation of the farmer?** none
- **May the practice contribute to a better public image of agriculture?** Yes
- **May the practice improve the farmer's self-image?** Yes

Contact

Name of the FIN (Fertilization Innovation Network) partner submitting the information:

Tuscany Region

Contact information of the FIN partner: alessandra.gemmiti@regione.toscana.it

Eu member state: Italy

Find out more

Source of information Data bank for RDP projects

Additional info/links: <https://www.ortobioattivopsgo.unifi.it/>