

## ITALY

Entry of skilled  
/ younger  
farmers

### Location

Ponzano di Cittaducale

### Programming period

2014 – 2020

### Priority

P2 – Competitiveness

### Measures

M 6 – Farm & business  
development

### Funding (EUR)

RDP support 70 000  
EAFRD 30 100  
National/Regional 39 900

### Project duration

2018 – 2019

### Project promoter

Tularù Società Agricola

### Contact

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### Website

[www.tularu.it](http://www.tularu.it)

Tularù is an organic and multi-functional closed-cycle farm born that began life as a centre for sustainable production. It offers an alternative approach to solving current environmental, social and economic issues for farms.

## Summary

There are question marks about the environmental, social and economic sustainability of mainstream methods of farming. The Tularù project was set up to show the potential of alternative approaches.



Tularù is an organic and multi-functional closed-cycle farm that was set up at a centre for sustainable production. The project involves managing 35 ha of arable land, pasture and woods using organic farming methods. Tularù is also collaborating with a research project on introducing the Voisin Rational Grazing System for the management of forage resources in cattle and sheep farms.

## Results

Improved soil fertility in the plots that where rational grazing has been applied.

Rational grazing has also increased grasslands biodiversity and improved the condition of pastures, due to the low number of grazing animals

Created a wheat short supply chain, which enables the production of healthy wheat products that meet local needs. It is important that all decisions in the wheat short supply chain are taken by all the actors involved.

Employing three people (including one asylum seeker) during the summer season.

## Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ Using organic farming and rational grazing methods can cut costs for the production of healthy and tasty meat, eggs, bread and milk. These can be sold at a bigger margin, increasing the farm's profitability.
- ❑ People are ready to accept alternatives to mainstream farming. More and more consumers want to know where the food they eat comes from and that it is produced sustainably.
- ❑ Work placement programmes were a success from the point of view of participants (including foreign volunteers) and the farm.

## Context

There are question marks about the environmental, social and economic sustainability of mainstream methods of farming. The current production cycle is based on extraction (extraction of oil at energy level, extraction of soil at food level, extraction of minerals at inputs level) and produces vast quantities of waste for disposal. Modern farming methods do not support the social fabric of small communities in the way that traditional farming processes did. Ownership of farms is becoming concentrated in the hands of fewer people, often with little connection to the land and community.

The Tularù farm was created to show consumers the potential of alternative ways of farming. It is situated 850 metres above sea level, in a mountain area 15 km from Rieti, between the valleys of the Salto and Velino river (Lazio region). The property in which it is based covers an area of 60 hectares, of which Tularù manages 35 hectares. This consists of arable land, pastures and woods.

## Objectives

Several objectives are pursued, including:

- reducing the rural exodus and degradation of land;
- responding to the crisis in the livestock sector;
- supporting the development of small and medium-sized farm businesses;
- furthering networks and links among associations, companies and consumers;
- Increasing soil fertility; and
- developing solutions for the mitigation of climate change and to boost the circular economy.

## Activities

Application of the 'Voisin' rational grazing system ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andr%C3%A9\\_Voisin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andr%C3%A9_Voisin)) for the management of forage resources in cattle and sheep farms. This was developed through a research project (Measure 16.1) coordinated by the University of Tuscia (Viterbo, Lazio).

Setting up of a phyto-depuration tank to purify all used water so that it can be used for fertigation.

Construction of a thermo-compost to reuse waste from forest management (pruning etc.). This provides hot water and an excellent soil improver for horticulture, reducing water use by 70%.

Using native seeds better adapted to local conditions.

Using renewable energy sources (solar panels, thermal energy and inverted flame pyrolysis).

The farm started its organic conversion in 2017 (Measure 11.1). All agronomic techniques are implemented through a collaboration with the NGO Deafal NGO (<http://www.deafal.org/agricoltura-organica-e-rigenerativa/>), which provides technical support. Organic agriculture aims to regenerate organic matter in the soil.



Activities to achieve social objectives:

- recreational and training events, including a Harvest Festival, in collaboration with various local organisations, a nature school for children, together with Postribù Onlus (<https://postribu.net/>), film festivals, book presentations, green building courses, agriculture courses, etc.; and
- work placement programmes for young people, voluntary programs (such as wwoofing - <https://wwoof.net/>, or the international volunteering camp), and work placement programs for refugees, in collaboration with institutions and NGOs.

Setting up territorial production chains helps maintain the added value of processed products in the area. Tularù is part of the "Chain of ancient grains of the Rino" supply chain. This involves six farms, a pasta factory, and bakeries.

This initiative is based on the primary production of ancient varieties of cereals, vegetables, fruit and wild fruit, breeding cattle that is fed exclusively on grass and hay, chickens for eggs, etc. The primary products are transformed into flour and bread and sold within the initiative's members.

Through this closed loop and territorial supply chains that cover the entire process (production, processing, retail), the added value of the goods remains the initiative, or in the territory and is reinvested for environmental and productive improvements. This enables full economic sustainability even in the mountainous and marginal land where Tularù is situated.

## Main Results

Improved soil fertility in the plots that where rational grazing has been applied.

Shared know-how on rational grazing through a course delivered by the renowned expert , Dr. Luis Carlos Pinheiro Machado (<http://www.tularu.it/our-gallery/corso-di-pascolamento/>). Rational grazing has increased grasslands biodiversity and improved the condition of pastures, due to the low number of grazing animals

Created a wheat short supply chain, which enables the production of healthy wheat products that meet local needs. The participative approach that characterized this wheat chain is also a positive output: all decisions are taken by all the actors involved.

The social relations that started with the various companies and associations in the area show great social potential.

The good management of Tularù has led to increased sales. Local people and consumers in general have

become aware of the farm's activities, its sensitivity to the environment and to economic and social sustainability. Awareness of its work has been boosted by participation in cultural and social events, where people have been able taste the food products and to get to know the company.

Employing three people (including one asylum seeker) during the summer season.

## Key lessons

- using organic farming and rational grazing methods can cut costs for the production of healthy and tasty meat, eggs, bread and milk. These can be sold at a bigger margin, increasing the farm's profitability;
- people are ready to accept alternatives to mainstream farming. More and more consumers want to know where the food they eat comes from and that it is produced sustainably; and
- the work placement programmes were a success from the point of view of participants (including foreign volunteers) and the farm.

### Overall RDP support

**M06 – Farm & business development** from 2018 to 2019

70 000 EUR = 30100 EUR EAFRD + 39900 EUR National/regional

**M11 – Organic farming** from 2017 to 2022

1 824.4 EUR/ha/year = 1 003.4 EUR EAFRD + 820.9 national/regional

**M13 – Areas with constraints** -2017

3 068 EUR/ha/year = 1687 EUR EAFRD + 1380 EUR national/regional

## Additional sources of information

[www.rainews.it/dl/rainews/media/Agroalimentare-sostenibile-fra-tradizione-e-innovazione-a9c95de0-e3b2-4ea1-b6bb-e58155e7bb8a.html](http://www.rainews.it/dl/rainews/media/Agroalimentare-sostenibile-fra-tradizione-e-innovazione-a9c95de0-e3b2-4ea1-b6bb-e58155e7bb8a.html)

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