



PRACTICE ABSTRACT NR. 3

Advice for diversified farming systems: the case of organic farming in Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy

Among the 900 organic farms operating in the region of Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy), there are wide differences concerning environmental, social, and market conditions faced by them. Farmers also greatly differ in their management style, education and training, and investment capacity. The regional branch of the national association providing farm advice, not only on agronomic issues but also market orientation and innovation, AIAB (Associazione Italiana per l'Agricoltura Biologica), needed to find a working methodology able to cater to the broad diversity of farmers' skills and a way to fit the knowledge available to the different on-farm needs. The method chosen provides for an ongoing exchange between farmers, advisors and, sometimes, researchers. Rather than aiming at providing general guidelines, the method focuses on identifying concrete exemplary experiences of individual farms(ers) that highlight real-life problems and practical solutions relevant for other peers. Two main outputs have been made available since 2015: 1) a set of 4 regular thematic newsletters on "integrated management in organic farming" (vegetables, fruit crops, arable crops and olive), and 2) a diverse range of specialised training schemes for farmers. This peer-to-peer learning activity has led to deeper farmer engagement, sometimes longer training and innovation implementation phases, but it has reduced the number of cases of farmers' incomplete assessment of practices and has allowed for a continuous exchange among practitioners. The newsletters are available in Italian at:

<http://www.aiab-aprobio.fvg.it/produttori/bollettini-lotta-guidata/>, along with information on training opportunities. (More info: info@aiab-aprobio.fvg.it)

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COUNTRY/REGION:

Italy

Friuli Venezia Giulia Region

KEY WORDS:

#advisory system for collective support, #value chain, #participatory process, #experience sharing, #co-creation

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The basic structure of the approach is based on regular observations in 12 farms per each crop type (arable, vegetable, fruit etc.). The 12 farms are chosen in order to be representative of geography, soil type, farming systems and market orientation.

The experiences of farmers are also shared during demo days, hosted by one of the farmers more involved or presenting specific problems or who achieved specific results.

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ABOUT AGRILINK

AgriLink is a multi-actor project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. It brings together 16 partners from 13 countries, including universities, applied research institutes, advisors and consultants from public organisations, private SMEs, a farmer-based organisation and specialists in communication and distance learning.

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All the Practice Abstracts prepared by the AgriLink project in the EIP-AGRI common format can be found here: <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/agrilink-agricultural-knowledge-linking-farmers>