

Ancient Grains Varieties provide new livelihood in Tuscany, Italy

Guido Gualandi

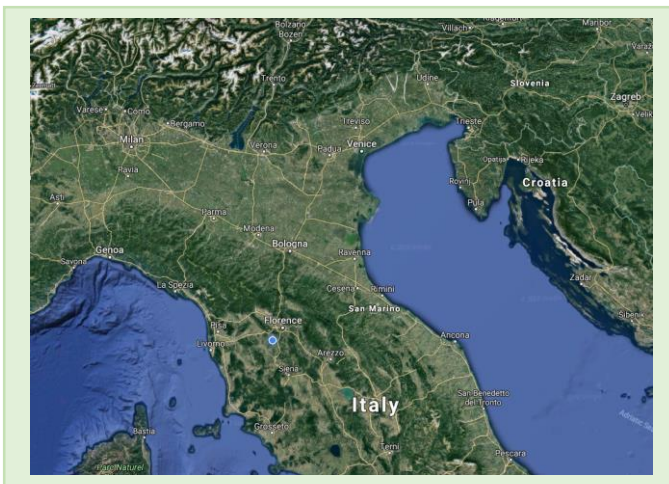
Associazione Grani Antichi Montespertoli, Podere Gualandi, Gonzaga University

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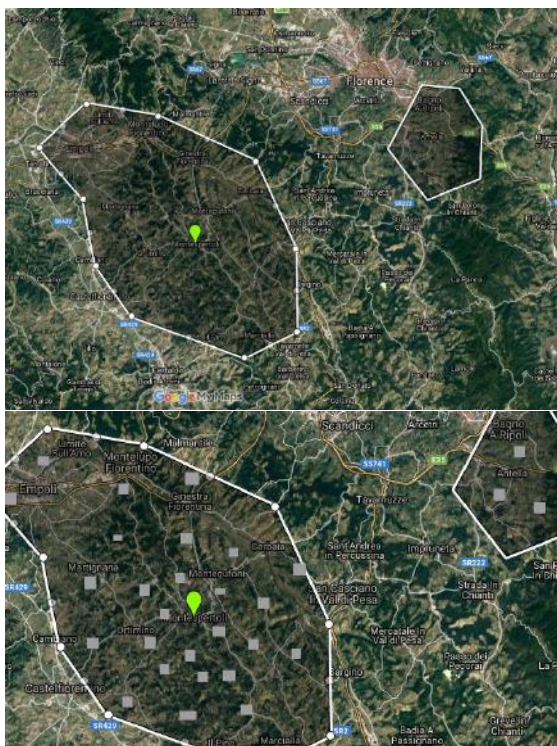
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Geographic and demographic information



Country	Italy
Province	Tuscany
District	Florence Province
Size of geographical area	3.514 km ²
Number of indirect beneficiaries	1.014.423 persons (Men: 485.845 persons) (Women: 528.578 persons)
Dominant ethnicity	Italian



Size of project area	10 km ²
Number of direct beneficiaries	250 persons (Men: 130 persons) (Women: 120 persons)
Geographic coordinates (longitude and latitude)	43°38'31.0"N 11°07'10.9"E
Dominant ethnicity	Italian

Ecosystem Types

Forest	Grassland	x	Agricultural	In-land water
Coastal	Dryland		Mountain	x Urban/peri-urban

Important species in the site

English common name (Local name)	Scientific name	Description
Gentil Rosso Wheat (picture)	<i>Triticum Aestivum</i>	Local variety of Wheat cultivated for bread
Emmer wheat or hulled wheat	<i>Triticum dicoccum</i>	Farro medio, cultivated for soup or pasta
Einkorn wheat	<i>Triticum monococcum</i>	Piccolo Farro cultivated for soup or pasta
Andriolo wheat	<i>Triticum Aestivum</i>	Local variety of Wheat cultivated for bread
Sieve wheat	<i>Triticum Aestivum</i>	Local variety of Wheat cultivated for bread



General introduction

The Grani Antichi association project sponsors and controls sustainable agriculture in the province of Florence, Tuscany, to increase biodiversity in wheat and local flora and fauna. It aims to provide the consumer with better quality products with several health benefits, to increase biodiversity and respect the ecosystem while providing livelihood to those involved in production and transformation.

The initiative is characterized by the unique cooperation between Florence University, millers, bakers, farmers who cultivate ancient and biodiverse varieties of wheat called Andriolo, Inallettabile, Sieve, Frassineto, Autonomia B, Verna, Gentil Rosso, Farro monococco and dicocco, that are grown, milled and transformed locally. The association has also introduced other cultivations such as rye, hemp, chickpeas, fava beans and other traditional rotation crops.

The association controls 500 hectares and several other hundreds are cultivated in the same way independently by other farmers. The quantity of wheat sold at the prices suggested by the association were above 200.000 kg in 2017, double the amount of 2015 and 20 times more than 2014. This price is more than double the market price for organic wheat and four times the price of conventional wheat.

Challenges to the project initially consisted in educating the stakeholders involved. At present, the main challenges are the proliferation of wild boars who eat and destroy crops and managing the increased number of farmers and products involved. The association is focusing on replicating our model in other towns, rather than expanding itself.



Ancient rain wheat field in



Ancient grains and Montespertoli bread

Contribution to Aichi Biodiversity Targets' Strategic Goal A

		Breakdown Target	How did you measure the outcome?	Result
Strategic Goal A	TARGET 1	People are aware of the values of biodiversity	People who regularly buy the bread pasta etc. are aware of what we do to support biodiversity.	At least 1500 students and their families. At least 5000 people who eat the bread regularly. And the rest who buy the products and read our newsletter. 10.000 people directly involved. More people involved indirectly.
		People are aware of the steps they can take to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity	Groups of people involved in ancient grains cultivation who are in contact with the association.	100 farmers in 10 different projects and 14 communes in Italy. People who work in the transformation chain. Government officials who believe in the project. Around 2000 people.
	TARGET 2	Biodiversity values integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies	Councils who have integrated our biodiversity values.	6 councils and one region have integrated our value in their development strategy.
		Biodiversity values integrated into national and local planning processes	Councils who have planned to incorporate our guidelines.	Specifically both Montespertoli and Montelupo councils have voted a resolution to use their land respecting our policies (no insecticides fertilizers and pesticides). School canteens use our biodiverse products. Other 6 councils are trying to implement the values.
		Biodiversity values incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate	The association is going through registration of ancient varieties of wheat.	2 new varieties of wheat, previously disappeared, were accepted into the regional and national registry. So they now can be sold and reproduced legally. Many others originally lost seeds are in the process of being registered.
		Biodiversity values incorporated into reporting systems	biodiversity grain in national system reporting.	3 varieties registered and several other in process.
	TARGET 3	Incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity, eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts		
		Positive incentives for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity developed and applied	Incentives by the government received by farmers and the association.	Subsidies were given to members of our association to buy agricultural machinery and to create a seed bank that can select, store, clean and resell our many varieties of wheat and other seeds. The amount is up to 500.000 euros. The government will finance any investment up to 50%. Incentives are given annually to the association to sponsor and market biodiversity of wheat.
	TARGET 4	Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve, or have implemented, plans for sustainable production and consumption...	Documents issued by local and regional governments and of local stakeholders.	Specifically, the City council of Montespertoli, Montelupo and Certaldo and the Tuscan region have incorporated some of our biodiversity values into their guidelines. Montespertoli and Montelupo have committed their schools and arable land to ancient grains cultivations and rotation following our practices.
		... and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits	The association checks that all farmers respect our rules.	Adopting our method means no use of herbicides insecticides and fertilizers, increasing biodiversity of weeds and insects as a consequence in more than 500 hectares.

Relations to other Aichi Biodiversity Target & SDGs

Please indicate the Aichi Biodiversity Targets other than the targets your working group focuses and SDGs that your activities contribute to if any. Use “●” and “■” to indicate the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the targets.

CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>)

Strategic Goal A				Strategic Goal B					
●	●	■	●	■		●	●	●	
Strategic Goal C			Strategic Goal D			Strategic Goal E			
■	■	●	■			●	●	●	■

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>)

■	●	●					●	
	●	●			●		■	

Any difficulties you found during your assessment

Assessing the results numerically can be a challenge, especially some indicators. It is hard to decide how many people to include.

Key messages for the CBD in planning for the post-2020 Targets

Sustainable farming and biodiversity can only succeed if there is a cooperation among all stakeholders. Governments and local authorities can help substantially by sponsoring investments and helping educating the people. Our experience proves that schools are essential for educating the population. Children can educate their parents. The ancient grain project was successful initially because of the enthusiasm of a group of volunteers, then because the right price was given to farmers, then because of local policies who helped selling and marketing the products. Finally financial help has arrived form the government for new investments. The project still needs to be helped by appropriate policies, for example control of wild boars population. And last but not least, incentives and policies are useless if there is no economical viability, in our case, the policies and incentives, associated with the school buying the products is responsible for the success of the project.