

# CONTEXT PROFILE



## FARMER

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## INNOVATION

Breeding a dual-purpose breed to produce  
grass-fed cattle meat in a silvopastoral system



[Video](#)



## MAIN DOMAIN OF THE INNOVATION

Animal management



## SOIL TYPE

Sand



## FINANCE/INVESTMENT

Mid



## AGROCLIMATIC AREA

Mediterranean South



## MANAGEMENT

Pasture beef



## MARKET

Local-rural



## CLIMATE

Mild winter



## TECHNICAL

Easy



## SOCIAL

Part-time farmer

# CONTEXT PROFILE

ITALY

Case Study: IT_13	Agroclimatic Zone								
Item (Key Innovation Elements)	Alpine	Atlantic Central	Atlantic North	Atlantic South	Boreal	Continental North	Continental South	Mediterranean North	Mediterranean South
Use of dual-purpose breed (milk and beef) for beef only	+++	++	++	++	++	++	+++	+++	+++
Beef production with low labor and low machinery input	+++	++	++	++	++	++	+++	+++	+++
Use of silvopastoral landscape	+++	++	++	++	++	++	+++	+++	+++
High quality beef production.	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
Year around grazing	+	++	++	++	+	+	+++	+++	++

+++ Strong transferability   ++ Slightly limited transferability   + Very limited transferability   ✕ Generic information/not relevant

## Implementation Gaps

- The Pezzato Rossa breed produces less than traditional beef breeds, thus a higher product price is required to remain competitive. Because of the higher-valued meat, the calves in the innovative example are sold to a nearby butcher who pays them more than the average beef breed
- Getting the tame animals accustomed to humans could be a challenge

## Research Gaps

- It would be fruitful to get knowledge about the areal need per head at different silvopastoral pastures
- Assess the environmental impact of the breeding of the breed in the several environments per unit of meat and milk

## Suggestions to Adapt

- It seems like a good fit for farm marketing and domestic slaughter
- Seasonal calving is not carried out. The mating system is 'natural' and births are not seasonal. The bull is always with the cows which accept the bull as soon as they are ready to mate (in average, after 103 days from birth – See Menta, 2012)

# COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

## INVESTMENT COSTS

Total initial investment costs at start up:	mid
• Initial authorisation costs (e.g. sanitary, veterinary, etc.)	mid
• Initial advisory costs	mid
• Initial buildings and machineries	not applicable/not known
• Initial certification costs	not applicable/not known
• Initial working capital (personal qualification, marketing and promotion, etc.)	high

## ON-GOING COSTS

On-going advisory costs	low
On-going certification costs	not applicable/not known
On-going buildings and machinery costs	low
On-going working capital	low

## BENEFITS RELATIVE TO ORIGINAL SYSTEM

### ◦ Economic

Reduction in energy consumption (electricity; fuel consumption)	mid
Reduction in input use (fertilizers; pesticides; feed) etc.	none or low
Payback period	mid
Product value added	mid
Additional farm income through agroecological/agri-environmental payment schemes	not applicable/not known

### ◦ Environmental

Animal feed self-sufficiency increase	not applicable/not known
Biodiversity increase	not applicable/not known
Improved nitrogen cycling	not applicable/not known
Soil regeneration	not applicable/not known
Animal health and welfare improvement	high

### ◦ Social

Workload reduction	mid
Engagement of young generation	high

# Literature

## National language

- [La Pezzata Rossa Italiana – Ruminantia – Web Magazine del mondo dei Ruminanti](#)
- Menta G. (2012). LA PEZZATA ROSSA ITALIANA: UNA RAZZA ADATTA PER LA ZOOTECNIA BIOLOGICA? Quaderno SOZOOALP n° 7: 67-71.  
[https://www.sozooalp.it/fileadmin/superuser/Quaderni/quaderno\\_7/7\\_Menta\\_SZA7.pdf](https://www.sozooalp.it/fileadmin/superuser/Quaderni/quaderno_7/7_Menta_SZA7.pdf)

## English

- Castro, M. (2009). Silvopastoral Systems in Portugal: Current Status and Future Prospects. In: Rigueiro-Rodríguez, A., McAdam, J., Mosquera-Losada, M.R. (eds) Agroforestry in Europe. Advances in Agroforestry, vol 6. Springer, Dordrecht. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4020-8272-6\\_6](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4020-8272-6_6)