

CONTEXT PROFILE

 ITALY



FARMER

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INNOVATION

Establishing an innovative pasture-mixture based on three functional plant groups and six forage species



[Video](#)



MAIN DOMAIN OF THE INNOVATION

Improvement of grassland management



SOIL TYPE

Sand



FINANCE/INVESTMENT

Mid



AGROCLIMATIC AREA

Mediterranean South



MANAGEMENT

Pasture dairy



MARKET

Local-rural



CLIMATE

Mild winter



TECHNICAL

Easy



SOCIAL

Full-time farmer

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Case Study: IT_15	Agroclimatic Zone								
Item (Key Innovation Elements)	Alpine	Atlantic Central	Atlantic North	Atlantic South	Boreal	Continental North	Continental South	Mediterranean North	Mediterranean South
Different pasture crops for year around grazing	+	+	+	++	+	+	+	+++	+++
Use of mixtures based on the concept of 'functional group' and their complementarity for improvement of forage quality and production (fast growing species to cover soil quickly, self-reseeding annual legumes to reduce the use of input and increase sustainability, herbs to reduce methane emission and other negative effects on animal health)	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	+++	+++
Self seeding with minimum tillage	+++	+++	+	+	+	+	+	+++	+++
Local Adaptation: Selecting forage species with a local origin that are well adapted to the farm's soil pH and environmental conditions, ensuring better growth and resilience.	+++	++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++

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

Implementation Gaps

- Identification of the most suited species for each region
- How long do livestock have to be excluded to allow self-seeding and regeneration

Research Gaps

- What are the most appropriate seed mixes
- How is the rotation adapted to allow swards renew based on self-seeding
- Annual yield of mixtures in different regions

Suggestions to Adapt

- Availability of electric fences
- Availability of water troughs
- Atlantic Central: Find out which species are suitable.
- Mediterranean north: Trials to evaluate competition among species
- Mediterranean south: Trials to evaluate competition among species

COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

INVESTMENT COSTS

Total initial investment costs at start up:	low
• Initial authorisation costs (e.g. sanitary, veterinary, etc.)	low
• Initial advisory costs	low
• Initial buildings and machineries	low
• Initial certification costs	low
• Initial working capital (personal qualification, marketing and promotion, etc.)	low

ON-GOING COSTS

On-going advisory costs	low
On-going certification costs	low
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)	none or low
Reduction in input use (fertilizers; pesticides; feed) etc.	high
Payback period	high
Product value added	none or low
Additional farm income through agroecological/agri-environmental payment schemes	high

◦ Environmental

Animal feed self-sufficiency increase	mid
Biodiversity increase	mid
Improved nitrogen cycling	mid
Soil regeneration	mid
Animal health and welfare improvement	high

◦ Social

Workload reduction	none or low
Engagement of young generation	none or low

Literature

English

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