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Gianluca Barbieri

Learning about and understanding how to apply biodistricts as an innovative tool



22-23 June 2022
EIP-AGRI Workshop Conversion to organic farming

Our purpose at a glance

Regione Toscana



The Tuscany Region believes that increasing organic farms throughout the region may greatly minimize the environmental effect of agriculture by fostering the rebalancing of natural cycles and the protection of resources, including soil and organic matter, water, air, and ecosystems.



The Tuscany region is particularly careful about the agriculture respectful of sustainable model at low environmental impact, consistent with the European objective of Green Deal, of the strategy Farm to Fork, and the Common Agricultural policy”

Stefania Saccardi – Vice-president of the Tuscany region with responsibility for agriculture

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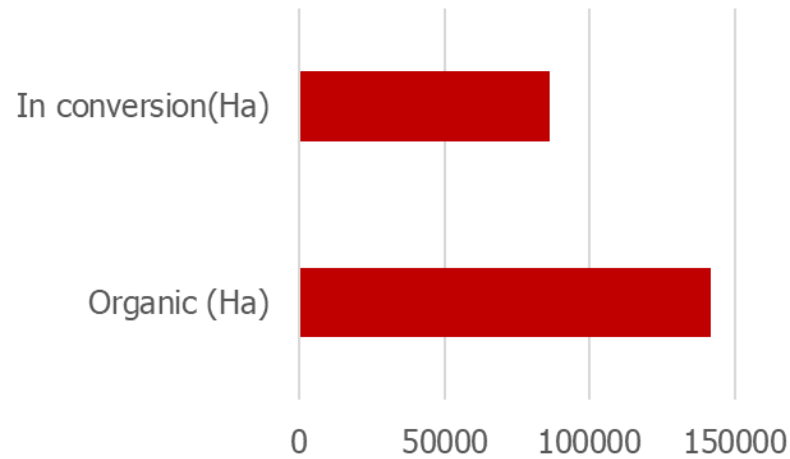


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Situation at 31.12.2021

Regione Toscana



86.333 hectares where the conversion to organic is underway equal to 38% of the utilized agricultural area (UAA)

141.762 hectares cultivated organically

8.959



certified organic farm

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An increasing trend

2016

48.150 hectares in conversion

+
40.000



Today

~ 90.000 hectares in conversion
700 farms under conversion

This, indicates that the actors of Tuscany's rural areas want to send a message that there is a model of agriculture based on:

- the interaction of best environmental practices
- a high level of agrobiodiversity
- the protection of natural resources
- the adoption of strict animal welfare and food safety criteria.



Increasing numbers: why?

Regione Toscana



The Tuscany Region encourages organic farming by providing yearly rewards for the development and preservation of organic farming (measure 11 of the RDP), allocating € 150 million in the period 2014 – 2021 for both maintenance and new members.

The Tuscany Region has enhanced the financial endowment, boosting the amount available to support applications in the period 2021 - 2022 to € 100 million. This financial capacity made it possible to satisfy all requests for access to the award from both organic and converting companies

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The Bio-District Tool

Regione Toscana



The Tuscany region aimed to include regional legislation for the recognition of organic districts in its own system: regional law 51/2019.

The Tuscany region tries to make accessible to the territory a tool to support the growth and competitiveness of agricultural and agri-food production, breeding, and aquaculture carried out using organic methods and using sustainable natural resources through Regional Law n. 51/2019.

*It is a very **simple law** that adapts to all territories and represents an instrument of **dialogue between all the actors** operating in the district who make **a pact** with each other to encourage the increase of agricultural areas cultivated with the organic method and the **increase of agricultural enterprises** that follow organic cultivation or breeding; The district can be established on a territory that already has at least 30% of the area organically cultivated as its starting point.*

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The Bio-District Tool

Regione Toscana



The organic district is established by an **agreement between public and private organisations** that operate in an **inclusive approach** within the local production system, subject to **accreditation** by the Tuscany Region, and is based on the sharing of an **integrated territorial economic project**.

The district must attend:

- **municipalities** (at least one-third of the municipalities of the district area) that agree to implement a conservation policy for their territory by taking efforts to conserve the environment and resources such as soil, water, and vegetation.
- **at least three organic farms**, as well as all subjects, whether private persons or groups, who share the district's aims.

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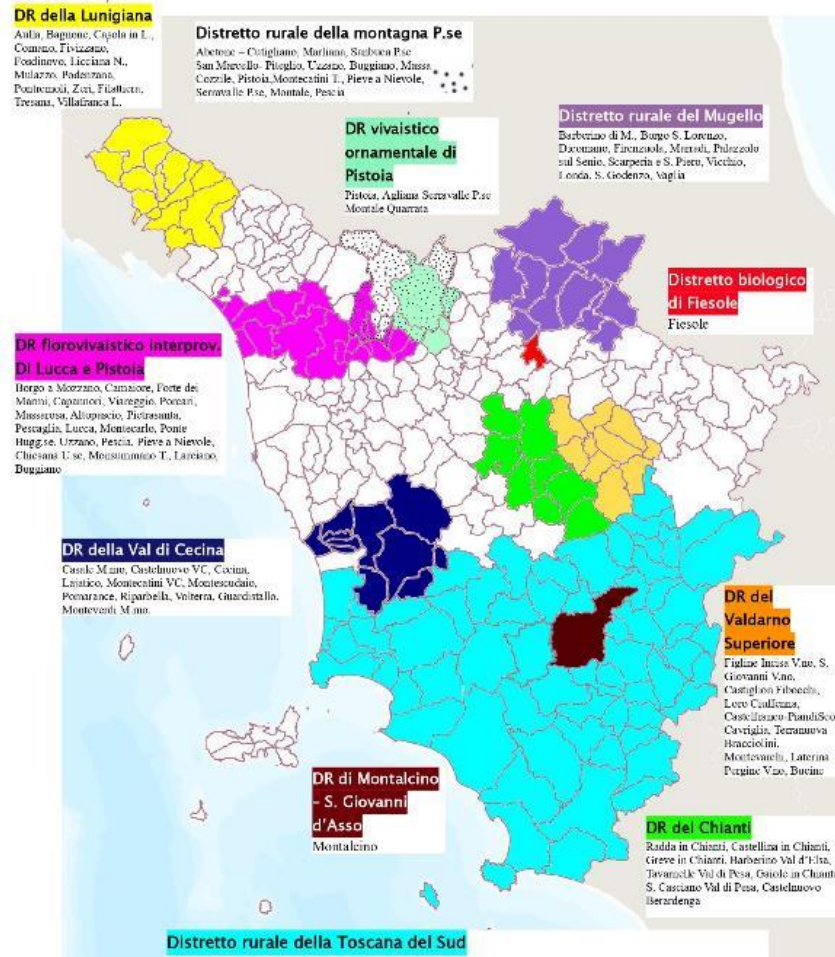


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In conclusion...

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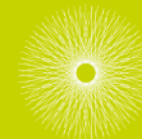
The organic district of Fiesole was the first to be recognised by the Tuscany region. Many territories are now drafting documents to present their application for recognition.

This legislation anticipated National Law No. 23 of 9/03/2022, which established organic districts at the national level and lays out requirements for the growth and competitiveness of organic agricultural, agri-food, and aquaculture production.

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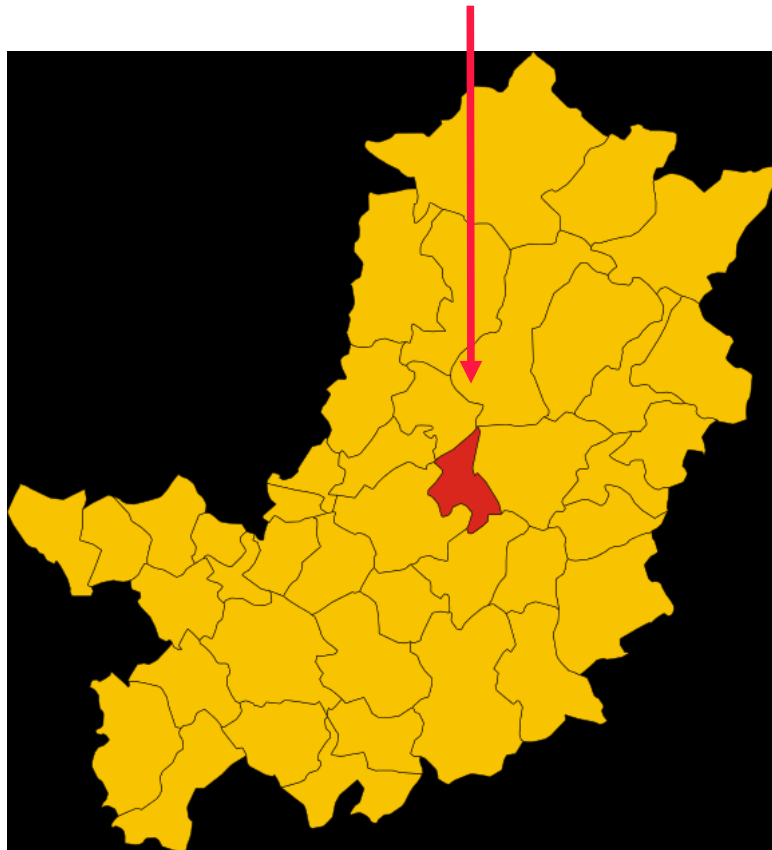


***Thanks for your
attention!***

***Any
questions?***

Enjoy the field visit!





The first organic district recognized by the Tuscany region is the organic district of Fiesole.

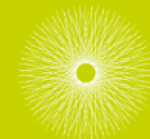
To date, many territories are preparing the documentation to present the application for recognition.



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