

Improvement of forage production in Campania Region

Riferimenti

Tipo di progetto

Gruppo Operativo

Acronimo

VALFOCAM

Tematica

Prodotti di qualità

Information

Time frame

2019 - 2022

Durata

36 months

Partners (no.)

4

Regione

Campania

Comparto

Coltivazioni foraggere

Localizzazione

ITF32 - Benevento

ITF35 - Salerno

Costo totale

€372.829,39

Fonte di finanziamento principale

Programma di sviluppo rurale

Programma di sviluppo rurale

2014IT06RDRP019: Italy - Rural Development

Programme (Regional) - Campania

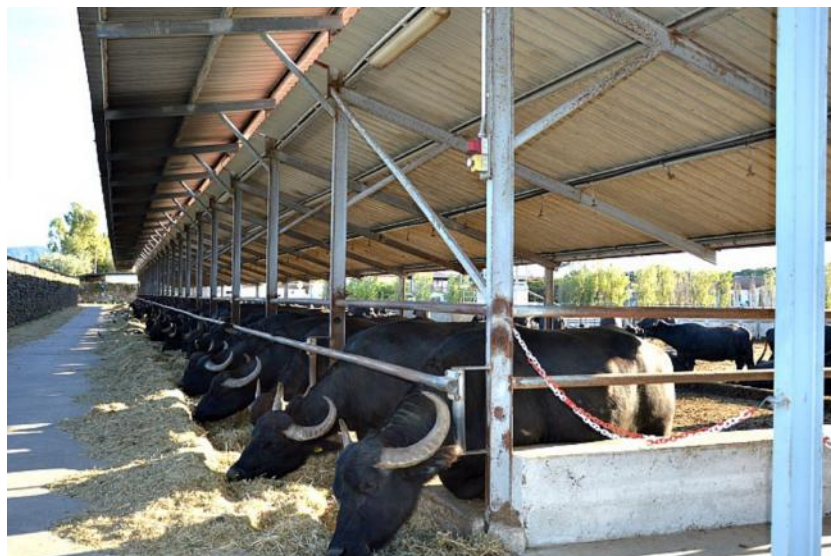
Parole chiave

Animal husbandry and welfare

Agricultural production system

Project status

ongoing



Objectives

Winter annual forages with high percentages of legume species can improve forage production in environmental condition of Campania Region

- Reduction of concentrates in rations
- Improvement of sensorial and nutraceutical characteristics of milk and mozzarella cheese from cows and buffaloes
- Genetic selection of buffaloes that have more desirable milk quality
- The reduction of production costs along with the increment of selling price of milk/mozzarella with enhanced nutraceutical and sensorial characteristics can ultimately raise farm income

Activities

- WP1 Production of winter annual forages with high percentages of legume species
- WP2 Feeding lactating cows and buffaloes with the produced forages. Assessment of milk yield and quality
- WP3 Assessment of nutraceutical and sensorial characteristics of milk and cheese
- WP4 Analysis of genetic variability influencing buffalo milk yield and quality
- WP5 Partial budget analysis and marketing strategies
- WP 6 Dissemination of results

Context

In Campania Region, dairy farming presents different features from area to area. Intensive buffalo farming for mozzarella production is concentrate on the coastal areas, whereas extensive or semi extensive dairy cattle farming prevails the internal areas of Region. Although these different features, both sectors need improvement of their economic and environmental

sustainability by reducing production costs and by entering into market niches allowing them to differentiate against national and international competitors. Since forages are the main diet component for dairy cows, it follows that their quality directly impacts the performance of lactating animals, the nutrient and energy balance at farm level, and, ultimately, the farm income given that feeding makes up a large proportion of variable costs. Winter forage crops are an important portion of regional forage production, so that their enhancement may reduce the purchase of external feed inputs, may improve product quality and may reduce the environmental impact of dairy farming. Nowadays, new improved forage mixtures adapted at different environments are available. Their use can allow increasing the potential for feed energy and protein from forage.

Partenariato

Role	Azienda	Address	Telephone	E-mail
Leader	Università degli studi di Napoli Federico II - Dipartimento di Agraria	via Università 100 80055 Portici NA Italy	0812539173	dip.agraria@unina.it
Partner	Azienda Agricola Antonio Pacifico	Contrada Setolara 82022 Castelfranco in Miscano BN Italy	3294118608	
Partner	Eredi Di Gaetano Iemma SS agricola	Via Velia 2 84091 Battipaglia SA Italy	0828 300336	caseificioiemma@gmail.com
Partner	Università degli Studi della Basilicata	Via Nazario Sauro, 85 Potenza PZ Italy	0971 202473	rettore@unibas.it

Pratiche abstract

Description

The process innovation consists of the implementation of new winter forage mixtures with a high incidence of legume species in livestock farming. Such process innovation can be implemented in a large part of Campania's ruminants' farming sector and will have a positive impact from the agronomic, economic and, quality product points of view.

The presence of both grass and legume species in the forages will allow, on one hand, increasing the dietary protein from forage without affecting forage production and, on the other, to reduce the purchase of concentrates, so reducing the feeding costs that make up a large share of variable costs. Also, such implementation can also improved soil fertility and environmental sustainability of farms due to the nitrogen-fixing action of legumes' roots. Moreover, the increment of forage in the ration for lactating cows along with the genetic selection of individuals able to produce milk with a healthier acidic

profile can improve the nutritional and sensorial characteristics of dairy products that can gain a market premium price.

Finally, the innovation will be also able to improve the health and well-being of animals thanks to the use of rations more appropriate with respect to the ruminants' physiology.

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