Actions for rural landscape in the Italian Agricultural Policies and in the Region of Tuscany

Prof. Mauro Agnoletti
President
Landscape Observatory of the Region of Tuscany

Scientific Coordinator
National Observatory of Rural Landscape
• Landscape as an objective of the national plan for rural development (2007-13)

• Establishment of the Working Group Landscape

• Preparation of a document with strategies and actions for the Regional Rural Development plans (RRDP - CAP)

objectives:
- economic competitiveness
- environmental quality
- quality of life
Importance of rural landscape in Italy

- The 511 millions of tourist arrivals in Italy generated 75 billion euros of expenditures

- Food products alone makes 24% of the reasons of arrivals and 16% of the total expenditures of tourists

- Tourism is the third source of income for workers in agriculture among the activities not related to food production

- In 2014 the average revenue for each agritourism business was about 56.000 €/year (+ 33% compared to 2013)

- Italy has the highest number of protected foods labelling in the world (574)

(data source – MIPAAF 2015)
• 2012

a) New roles of the Ministry of Agriculture for landscape policies;

b) Institution of the national observatory of rural landscape;

c) International relations;
Activities of the Observatory of Rural Landscapes

1. Strategies and actions for planning and management
2. National Register of Historical Landscapes
3. Monitoring
4. Landscape quality objectives
5. Training courses (www.agriculturalheritage.com)
6. Relationships with regional observatories
7. Communication
8. International agreements (FAO Agricultural Heritage program)
ISSUES:

- Go beyond GDP for assessing development level introducing well being.

- Include the quality of landscape among the indicators

- Identify correct evaluating tools for the quality of the Italian landscape
Monitoring and assessing rural landscape changes: 1911 – 2005*

“More than 10,000,000 Ha of farmed land has been lost”

* Data – 1st national report on rural landscape (www.reterurale.it)
• Actions in favor of the restoration of rural landscape

Issues:
• Abandonment of rural territory by farmers

Actions:
• Incentives to farmers for good agricultural practices
• Actions in favor of the restoration of rural landscape

Issues:
• Return of the woodlands on abandoned land
• Landscape protection laws favoring the conservation of woodlands returning on abandonment land

Actions:
• Changes in the legal definition of “woodlands”
2012

- landscape restoration law

**Modifications to the forest law n.227 of 2001:**

- Abandoned terraces, pastures and wood pasture, and other rural landscapes considered of having historical importance covered by secondary woods are no longer legally considered as woodlands.

- In such cases forest vegetation can be removed in order to restore the previous landscapes
Economy in Tuscany 2009-2013

- Employees in industry: - 22,000
- Employees in services: - 12,600
- Employees in tourism: + 5,156

Rural Landscape:

- Tourists in Tuscany (2018) 48 millions
- Tuscany first region of Italy for agritourism
- Tuscany first region of Italy for certified typical food: 410
- Agritourism 2° place for hospitality after 5 stars hotels
- Agritourisms 1997-12: + 367%
- Reforestation due to abandonment: 400,000 ha (18% of territory)

- Tuscany has been the first region of Italy to include the restoration of abandoned farmed land in the landscape plan (2014)

- The law allows to restore up to 3 ha of land all together at one time

- This can be done presenting an evidence of pre-existing cultivated land
New National forest law n 34/2018

art. 5 – removal of secondary woodlands

Areas not considered as “woodlands”:

- Abandoned farmed land affected by reforestation processes
- Areas included in the national register of historical rural landscapes

Current situation:
- Establishment of a commission establishing national regulations
Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the ELC – Firenze 19-20 October 2020

Thank-you