



Federazione Italiana Produttori Piante Officinali



Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Italy report

Aix en Provence, 1 December 2016





Herbs production in Italy: outlines

Very minor crops sector

New and growing

Not easy to investigate

Dispersion of the farms throughout the country

2500 tons of dried* herbs, 120 t of essential oils

80% of national production is exported to Germany, France, USA, Switzerland



* not considering coriander



Herbs consumption in Italy: outlines

Many different uses

75% food sector, 25% non food

35.000 tons of dried herbs

200 t of oils

Huge quantity of herbs imported as fine ingredients

Import from Germany, Albania, Turkey, China, North Africa

Main item imported: licorice (as extract), chili pepper, mint oil and other oils, saffron, oregano, fennel seed.



Main growing areas

Piemonte 400 Ha: lavender, peppermint, passiflora, liquor herbs

Veneto 100 Ha: echinacea, taraxacum, melissa, artichoke, iris, valeriana e altre

Romagna 100 Ha: chamomile, passionflower, milk thistle, melissa, burdock

Adriatic coast of Romagna, Marche and Abruzzo, coriander seed circa 4000 ha, little passionflower

Upper Tevere valley and inland Tuscany plains 600 Ha: chamomile, passiflora, melissa, echinacea, malva, milk thistle

Calabria: Licorice 300 Ha

Sardinia, around 100 Ha but guessed data: elicriso, mirto, saffron, aloe wildcrafting

Sicilia inland: oregano, sage, manna ash, aloe, basil and rosemary 250 Ha

Calabria e Sicilia 1500 Ha citrus oils, mainly bergamot, and recently extracts from left-over





Some detail on numbers

Producers: estimated 400 specialized on total 2.983

Totale cultivated area: 8.000 approx Ha

Plants cultivated or wildcrafted: 120

Specie	ettari
Coriander and other seed crops	4000
Bergamotand other citrus oil	1200
Melilotus officinalis**	520
Licorice	300
Peppermint oil	250
Lavender true ed hybrid	250
Chamomile	190
Oregano white	170
Psyllium	120
Passiflora	120
Basil	80
Rosemary	45
Absinth, sage, saffron, fennel,	750



Figures from report ISMEA 2013 revised FIPPO 2016

** the product is nor collected neither traded on the market



Three main types of farming company in the herb sector

1. Raw material producers
2. From the field to the finished product
3. Multifunction



Enterprises to raw material market

Large farmland



Automatic post-harvest systems



massive storage



closed circle production system to
finished products



small multifunctional businesses





STRONG POINTS

- Great diversity of climate
- High general expertise of the farmers
- High quality and accessible price products
- Success of “mediterranean bouquet” worldwide
- Novelty and great interest by farmers



WEAK POINTS

- Lack of specialized technology
- Lack of protection products
- Lack of selected propagation material
- Weak agricultural infrastructure
- No EU specific subsidies
- Poor political support
- Small dimension on the farms



FIPPO

Italian Federation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plant Producers

www.fippo.org

- Founded in 1995, provides support and network to farmers and industrial members.
- Look after political and regulatory aspects
- Since 4 years support farmers to find customers in the international market (this year 100 t of sales)
- Organize seminars, training courses, workshops and exhibition for members and non members
- Take part in national and international projects
- Member of EUROPAM



FIPPO Numbers 2016

Total members: 123 (273 farmers through cooperatives)

Farmers/growers: 111

Industry/Organisation/Consultant: 12

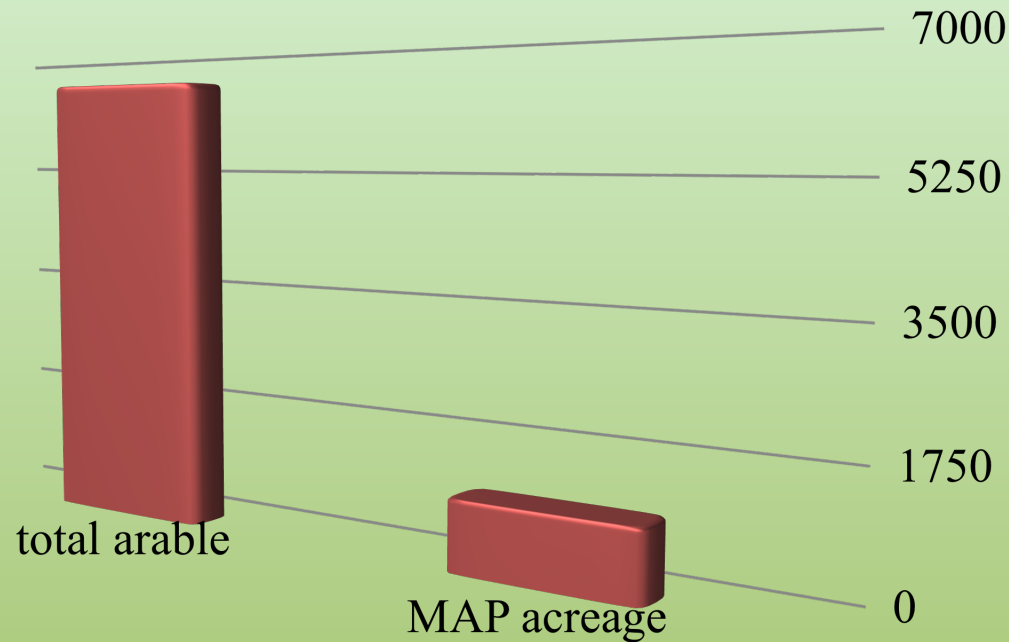
Surveyed by questionnaire or by telephone from September 2015 to May 2016

-99 have provided complete data

- 24 provided incomplete data or did not respond



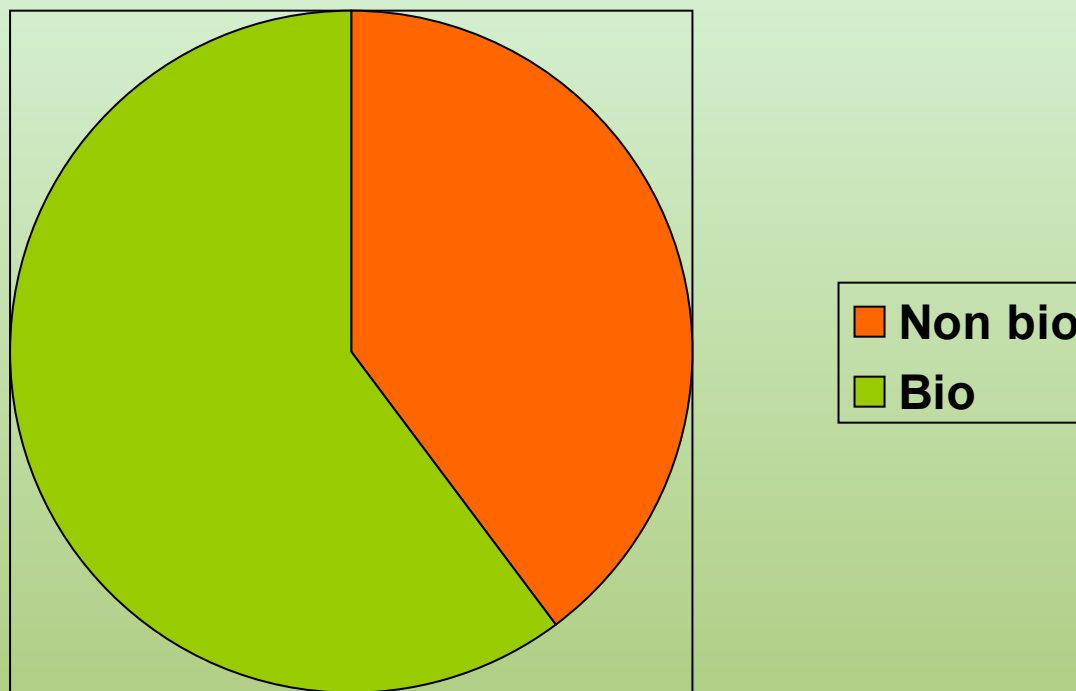
Acreage of the members



total arable	MAP	
6558 Ha	1147 Ha	13



Companies by method of cultivation

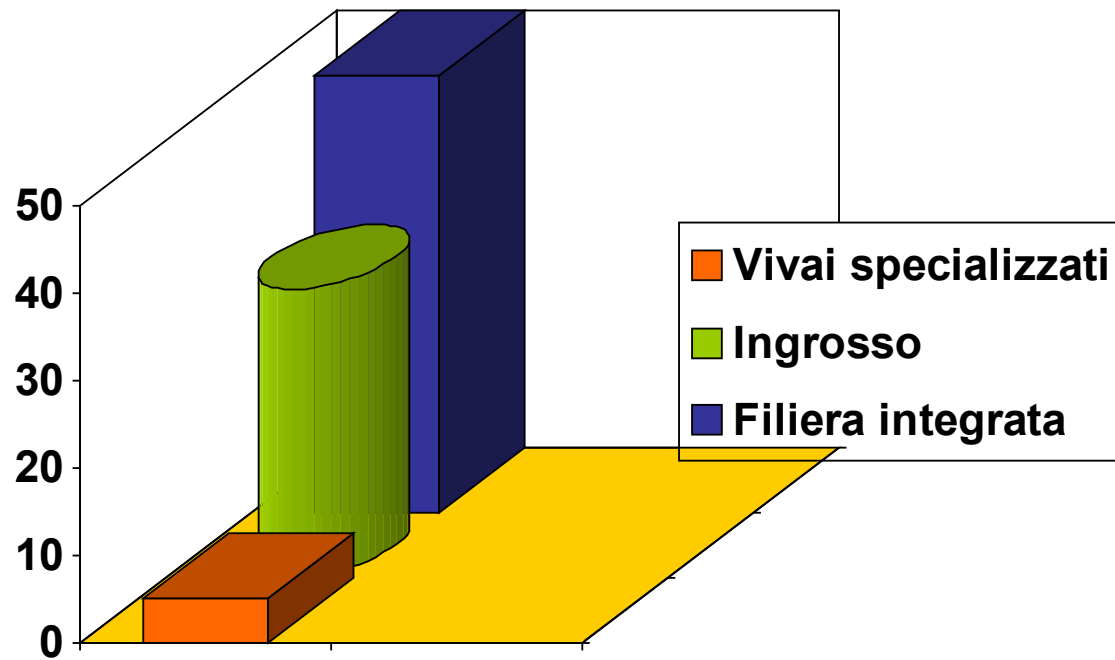


conventional	organic
38	56



Survey 2016

Approach to the market



Direct marketing	Wholesale market
49	34



HOT TOPICS

HELYCRISUM ITALICUM BUBBLE

PIRROLIZIDINE ALKALOIDS



HELICRISUM ITALICUM BUBBLE

Helichrysum italicum G.Don subsp. *italicum* is an essential oil plant from mediterranean region

Many different populations and chemotypes

Market started developing interest in beginning of 2000

Prices were very high: 2500 euro/kg

First production area Sardinia and Corse

Used mainly for perfumery and then for aromatherapy



HELICRISUM ITALICUM BUBBLE

The last four years many hectares has been planted in many countries of adriatic coast (Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia)

Competition between sardo-corsican chemiotype and balkanic chemiotype

Sardo-corsican: rich in neryl-acetate and italidiones

Balkanic: rich in pinene and curcumene

Market towards saturation with balkan type and lack of sardo-corsican

Prices uncoherent and fluctuating

Sophistications are expected

Possible crash of the market in 2018



Pyrrrolizidine alkaloids in Italy: situation

Little or no awareness by farmers and industry

Nobody is asking for PA free crops

Authorities completely ignoring the problem

FIPPO campaigning since three years to inform the growers

Not big issue due to low risk of contamination in our climate

Is going to be a big problem in future



Thank you for your attention

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