POTENTIAL OF ECO-SHEMES FOR THE AGROECOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION IN NORTHERN ITALY

A PAPER

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SESSION 1: Multi-level policy initiatives to reshape the CAP

#AEEUForum2023
INTRODUCTION

STATE-OF-ART

Piedmont:
- 51703 farms (including 3555 organic farms)
- 941513 ha under agriculture (including 54616 ha of organic farming)
- 61006 people work in agriculture
INTRODUCTION

Selected eco-schemes for Italy

- Eco-scheme 1 - Payment for reducing antimicrobial resistance and animal welfare;

- Eco-scheme 2 - Weeding of tree crops (120€/ha);

- Eco-scheme 3 - Safeguarding olive trees of particular landscape value (220€/ha);

- Eco-scheme 4 - Extensive fodder systems, aimed at encouraging the introduction in rotation of leguminous and fodder crops (110€/ha);

- Eco-scheme 5 - Specific measures for pollinators (125€/ha)

Source: Italian Strategic Plan
RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:

• To identify a group of the stakeholders the most interested in application of eco-schemes;

• To compare the stakeholders’ awareness and interest in the eco-schemes;

• To identify the most useful eco-scheme for farmers in Piedmont
DATA COLLECTION

• Online questionnaire (Qualtrics platform), autumn 2022:
  - 3 demographic questions;
  - 2 multiple-choice questions;
  - 5 yes/no questions (awareness and interest in the eco-schemes);
  - 5 Likert scale questions (potential usefulness of each eco-scheme)

DATA ANALYSIS

• Statistical analysis (SPSS 28):
  - One-way ANOVA;
  - Two-step cluster analysis
RESULTS

THE RESPONDENTS: DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS

• N=66 (complete responses)
RESULTS

THE RESPONDENTS: PRODUCTION AND FARM MANAGEMENT

• N=66 (complete responses)
RESULTS

RESPONDENTS’ AWARENESS AND INTEREST IN ECO-SCHEMES

• Awareness of the eco-schemes (n=66)

• Interest in the eco-schemes (n=66)
RESULTS

Average evaluation, demographic and production factors

- Average evaluation and SD of the eco-schemes (n=66)

- Results of one-way ANOVA (n=66)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ECO1</th>
<th>ECO2</th>
<th>ECO3</th>
<th>ECO4</th>
<th>ECO5</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>n.s</td>
<td>n.s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>n.s</td>
<td>n.s</td>
<td>**</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>n.s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farm management</td>
<td>n.s</td>
<td>n.s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Type of production</td>
<td>n.s</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>n.s</td>
<td>n.s</td>
<td>n.s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001, n.s. - not significant
RESULTS

THREE CLUSTERS FOR ALL ECO-SCHEMES (DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS)

• Higher evaluation of all eco-schemes by 2 clusters:
  1) Male with secondary education
  2) Female with secondary and higher education
RESULTS

HIGHER EVALUATION OF ECO-SCHEMES (PRODUCTION AND FARM MANAGEMENT FACTORS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECO1</th>
<th>Organic and conventional, except animals and beekeeping</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECO2</td>
<td>Organic and conventional, horticulture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECO3</td>
<td>Organic and other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECO4</td>
<td>Organic and integrated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECO5</td>
<td>No important factors</td>
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</table>
**DISCUSSION**

**PAPER: FURTHER STEPS**

- Confirmed results of other authors (Sachs 2018; Davidson & Freudenburg 1996 ...);
- Needed qualitative data (interviews with the respondents);
- Focus on production factors;
- Further research with other factors (economic, agronomic...)

**ECO-SCHEMES: FOR FUTURE POLICIES**

- More dissemination activities;
- More freedom for regions in selection of specific eco-schemes;
- Less restrictions and requirements for small-scale farmers;
- Involvement farmers into development of the regional eco-schemes
THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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