



Use of organic fertilisers & new cheese types & direct sale & energy self-sufficiency



Pietro and Sergio Saba

1 Description of the innovation



The farm that belongs to Saba brothers is located in the Nurra Plain in North West Sardinia (Italy).

A series of innovations were introduced in the farm.

1. Use of organic fertilisers . This practice is carried out by a public authority and comprises: soil analyses before the fertilisation, distribution of fertilisers, soil tillage. The operation has no cost for the farmer.
2. Milk is processed into cheese in a mini dairy factory. The farmers offer innovative products (also with herbs), which process technology has been set up in the farm. In total, more than seven types of cheese are produced. Cheese contain high levels of CLA because the farmer supplies flax flour to sheep diet.
3. Farmers sell their products on farm, in a farm-to-fork sale circuit (Coldiretti Campagna Amica) and in their own shop in the city centre (Sassari).
4. Energy supply. The farm is provided with photovoltaic panels, that cover about 70% of farm energy requirements.



Reason for the innovation

- Increase farmer income
- Have a well distributed and continuous income among years to plan future investments
- Reduction of energy costs



Cost reduction of milk production



2 Farm description

ENVIRONMENT

Soil types: alluvial soils of calcareous origin, alkaline pH

Climate: Mediterranean climate

Altitude: 150 m a.s.l.

Slope: 5%

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Grazing : Yes

Grazing management type: part time rotational grazing, combined with mowing (1 cut per year)

Length of the grazing season: 12 months

Forage conservation type: Hay

Fertilisation rate: urea 150 kg ha⁻¹ and ammonium nitrate 80 kg ha⁻¹, distributed during crop growth of cereals; organic fertilisers 7 t ha⁻¹, distributed to farm soils during soil tillage

FARM STRUCTURE

Annual Work Unit: 7 full time and 2 seasonal workers (2 months per year)

Agricultural Area: 180 ha, 174 ha UAA:

- 7 ha, olive orchard

- 6 ha, natural permanent pasture

- 35 ha, crops for grain production (rye, triticosecale, barley, others)

-35 ha, legumes (mixtures of clovers and vetches)

- 10 ha, lucerne under irrigation

- 81 ha, annual forage crops (mixtures of winter cereals and grasses; mixtures of annual medics and clovers)

Activity: dairy sheep raising (Sarda breed)

Number of heads (LSU): 120

Stocking rate referred to total farm area: 0.67 LSU per hectare

ANIMAL PRODUCTION

Milk production: 255-280 l per head per year

Meat production: 800 milk lambs per year, slaughtered 28 days after birth (carcass weight: 6-7 kg)

WHY IT IS WORKING

- The farmers are extremely attentive to production costs and adapt their production to minimise them.
- They are interested in improving the labour conditions in the farm and have a strong attitude to innovation
- They succeeded in selling cheese in a farm-to fork market, attracting loyal customers

Country shapes



Domains of innovation



Machinery, tools



Forage mixture



Forage conservation technique



Grazing management system



Legume management



Animal feeding management



Animal type (breed)



Product processing



Marketing



Farm system



Landscape

Main types of animal

