



- Summer forage crops



## TOCCACELI FARM

### 1 Description of the innovation



Toccaceli farm is a family-run farm covering 75 ha. The owner can be classified among the early adopters as he always takes advantages from innovation to support the sustainability of the farm and reduce the environmental impact of the production. The critical period occurs during the summer season when the poor rainfall limits the grass productivity and quality.

The innovation focused on the introduction of summer forage crops in order to enlarge the grazing window during the year and the availability of fresh forage. The varieties selected were Panicum and Sorghum, both adapted to dry soil and requiring low water supply to grow and produce. The strong increase of fodder production satisfied the nutritional needs of the farm flock with good quality of proteins and carbohydrates preventing the drop of milk production. The reduction of out-farm purchasing of fodder also contributes to the economic sustainability of the farm.



### Added Value



- Grassland production
- Livestock production
- Grassland quality

### Reason for the innovation

- Solving economic challenges
- Improve production
- Reduce costs



## 2 Farm description

### ENVIRONMENT

**Main soil types:** clayey-loam

**Climate:** Warm Mediterranean climate

**Altitude (m a.s.l.):** 450 m a.s.l.

**Slope (%):** 15

### GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

**Grazing:** yes, combined with cut use

**Grazing management:** rotational stoking

**Length grazing period:** 10 month

**Number of cuts:** 3

**Forage conservation type:** hay

**Fertilisation rate:** 120 kg of N/ha

### STRUCTURE

**AWU (annual work units):** 2510 hours

**Agricultural area (ha UAA):** 60 ha

- **Arable land** 29 ha
- **Permanent crop** 20 ha
- **Permanent grassland area** 11 ha
- **Temporary grassland area** 5 ha
- **Rangelands area** 2 ha

### ANIMAL PERFORMANCES

**Breed type:** Comisana sheep

**Total livestock Unit:** 36,7

**Milk production (l/year/head):** 230

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### Reasons why this innovation is working on the farm

Alternative to the temporary grass based only on autumn-winter forage crops.

High farm mechanization.

## Country shapes



## Domains of Innovation



Machinery, tools



Animal type (breed)



Forage mixture



Product processing



Forage conservation technique



Marketing



Grazing management system



Farm system



Legume management



Landscape



Animal feeding management

## Main types of animal

