



Gli esperimenti di lungo termine per l'agricoltura biologica nel contesto Europeo

Daniele Antichi

WORKSHOP: Gli esperimenti di lunga durata (Long Term Experiments - LTE) per l'agricoltura biologica nel contesto italiano ed europeo

Roma, 13 marzo 2018





Sommario

- Importanza dei LTEs in agricoltura biologica
- Cronistoria dei LTEs a livello Europeo e mondiale
- Reti di LTEs: l'esperienza ISOFAR
- Nuove iniziative: Organic LTEs



Importanza dei LTEs nella ricerca in agricoltura biologica

- Studio di dinamiche/parametri variabili solo nel lungo periodo (**BASIC RESEARCH**)
- Studio di dinamiche/parametri sensibili a condizioni contestuali (**WIDE TIMEFRAME**)
- Necessità di sistemi assestati in cui testare nuove pratiche/tecniche/strategie (**FARMERS'LIKELIHOOD**)
- Confronti tra sistemi innovativi in un contesto dinamico di cambiamenti socio-economico-politici (**MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH**)



STUDIO DINAMICHE EFFETTIVE SOLO NEL LUNGO PERIODO

- **Evoluzione fertilità del suolo (SOM);**
- **Mitigazione/adattamento ai cambiamenti climatici (GHG emission, GWP);**
- **Stabilità delle performances (rese culturali, effetto su macrodinamiche biodiversità, popolazioni evolutive);**
- **Modificazioni dell'ambiente fisico (elementi strutturali agro-ecosistema);**
- **Resilienza e resistenza nei confronti di turbative ambientali;**
- **Inquinamento e tossicità croniche**



STUDIO DINAMICHE VARIABILI DA VALUTARE NEL LUNGO PERIODO

- Effetti su attività biologica del suolo;
- Effetti su composizione biodiversità funzionale (flora, pedofauna, microflora);
- Modificazioni dell'ambiente biologico (elementi funzionali dell'agro-ecosistema);
- Effetti su qualità produzioni;
- Effetti su cicli dei nutrienti e dell'acqua;
- Rilevanza statistica di tossicità acute puntiformi;
- Ricambio varietale (miglioramento genetico);



STUDIO TECNICHE INNOVATIVE IN SISTEMI ASSESTATI

- Simulazione del contesto aziendale in assenza di rischio imprenditoriale;
- Prevenzione/controllo di problematiche fitosanitarie;
- Prevenzione/controllo della flora infestante;
- Gestione della nutrizione minerale delle piante;
- Effetto residuo di pratiche puntiformi;
- Effetti ambientali legati a impiego nuove tecniche/prodotti (es. OGM)



CONFRONTO DI SISTEMA IN OTTICA MULTIDISCIPLINARE

- Evoluzione delle conoscenze, impatto delle innovazioni;
- Cambiamenti socio-politici (riforme PAC, regolamenti di settore);
- Andamenti del mercato dei mezzi tecnici e dei prodotti;
- Valutazioni di sostenibilità, estetiche, culturali;
- Esigenza dei programmi europei di ricerca applicata (MULTIACTOR, IMPACT, PARTICIPATORY)

CRONOSTORIA



Haughley Experiment, Lady
Eve Balfour, 1939

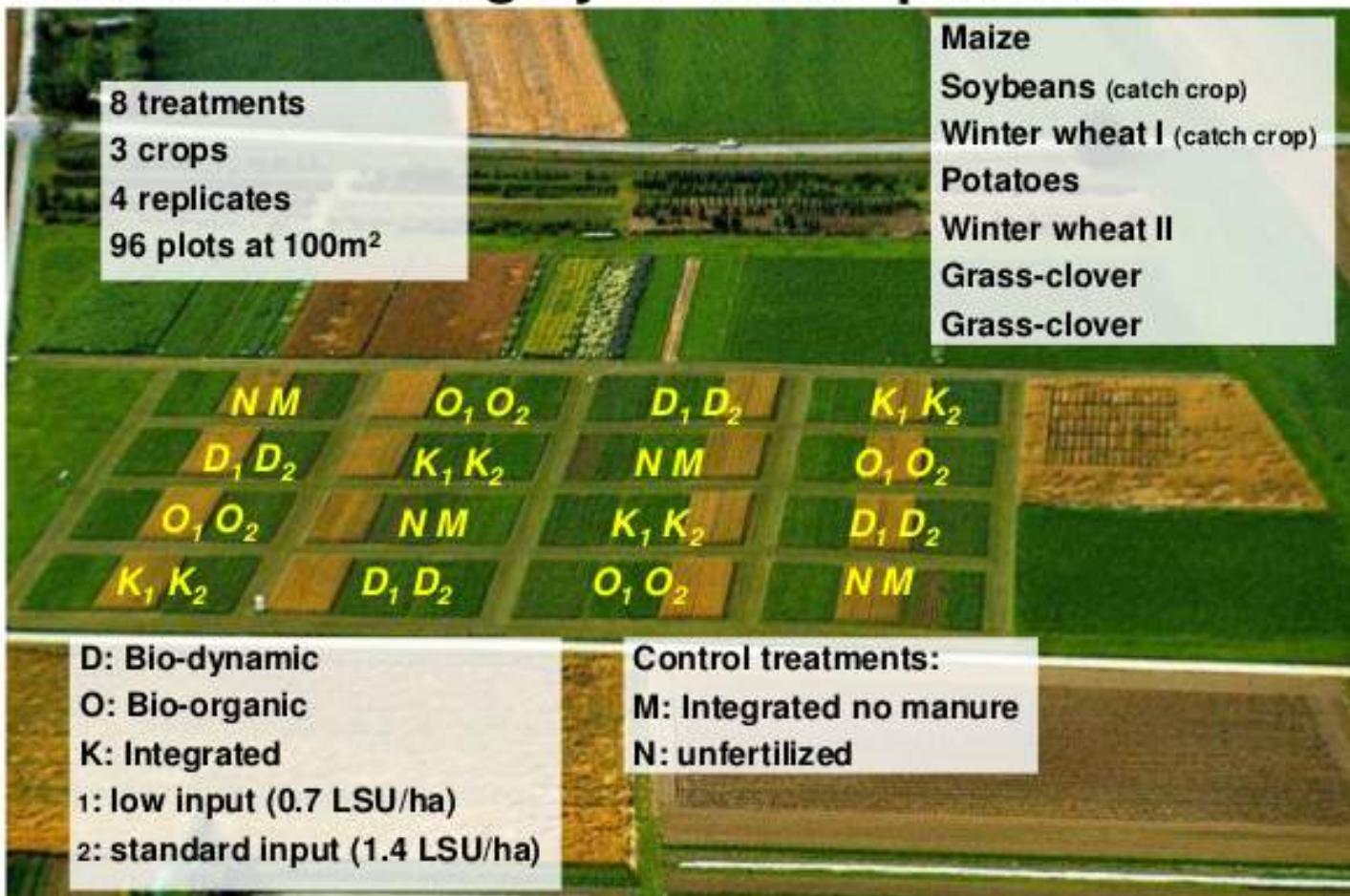
Suffolk, UK

Organic vs Conventional

CRONOSTORIA

Long-term agronomic experiment since 1978

The DOK farming system comparison



CRONOSTORIA

A Review of Long-Term Organic Comparison Trials in the U.S.

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doi:10.5539/sar.v4n3p5

URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5539/sar.v4n3p5>

Table 1. Long-term organic comparison trials in the U.S.

Name of experiment	Date initiated	Comparisons	Main crops	Lead entity and location
Farming Systems Trial (FST)	1981	Conv ¹ C-S vs. Org 3 and 4-yr rotations	Corn, soybean, wheat	Rodale Institute Kutztown, Pennsylvania
Sustainable Ag Farming Systems (SAFS)	1988	Conv C, W, S, B and T vs. Org C, W, S, B, T, O	Corn, tomato, wheat, bean, safflower, oat/vetch/pea	University of California Davis, California
Variable Input Crop Management Systems (VICMS)	1989	Conv C-S vs. Org 3 (dropped Org 2) and 4-yr rotations	Corn, soybean, oat, alfalfa	University of Minnesota Lamberton, Minnesota
Wisconsin Integrated Cropping Systems Trials (WICST)	1989	Conv C-S vs. Org 3 and 4-yr rotations	Corn, soybean, wheat, oat, alfalfa	University of Wisconsin-Madison Arlington, Wisconsin
Beltsville Farming Systems Project (FSP)	1996	Conv C-S vs. Org 2, 3 and 6-yr rotations	Corn, soybean, wheat	USDA-ARS Beltsville, MD
Long-Term Agroecological Research (LTAR)	1998	Conv C-S vs. Org 3 and 4-yr rotations	Corn, soybean, oat, alfalfa	Iowa State University Greenfield, Iowa

¹ Conv = following conventional practices; Org = following certified organic practices. C=corn; S=soybean; W=wheat; O=oat; B=dry bean; S= safflower; T=tomato.



CRONOSTORIA

Int. Workshop on Organic Farming
and Development in China
21-23 Oct 2009

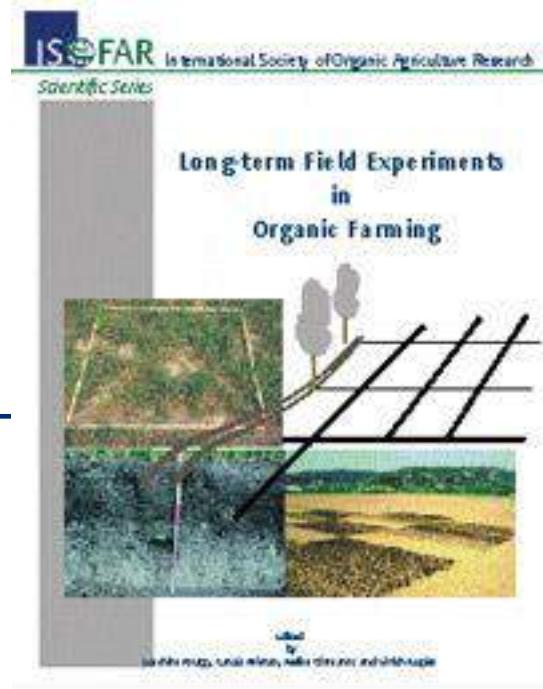


Long-term field studies on organic farming (25):

Austria (1)
Canada (3)
Denmark (2)
Finland (1)
Germany (6)
Italy (2)
Sweden (1)
Switzerland (1)
United Kingdom (2)
United States of America (6)



- Probably, there is a number of other trials that are not shown.



Vorlag Dr. Köster

Berlin

Working Group fondato
in ISO FAR e guidato da J.
Raupp

45 membri per 28 LTEs





UN NETWORK DI LONG-TERM EXPERIMENTS IN BIO: PERCHE'?

- Scambio di esperienze in sistemi ancora poco conosciuti;
- Fornire linee guida per nuovi LTEs in organic farming;
- Stabilire le direttive del futuro della ricerca in organic farming;
- Riflessioni metodologiche ed epistemologiche (protocolli comuni);
- Creare infrastrutture di ricerca (data sharing, facility sharing, mobility & training)
- Maggiore attrazione di fondi

RIFLESSIONI EPISTEMOLOGICHE

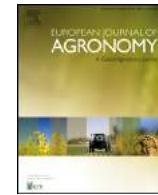
Europ. J. Agronomy 83 (2017) 86–99



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

European Journal of Agronomy

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/eja



Diversity of methodologies to experiment Integrated Pest Management in arable cropping systems: Analysis and reflections based on a European network



Martin Lechenet^{a,*}, Violaine Deytieux^b, Daniele Antichi^c, Jean-Noël Aubertot^d,
Paolo Bärberi^e, Michel Bertrand^f, Vincent Cellier^b, Raphaël Charles^g,
Caroline Colnenne-David^f, Silke Dachbrodt-Saaydeh^h, Philippe Debaeke^d, Thierry Doré^f,
Pascal Farcy^b, César Fernandez-Quintanillaⁱ, Gilles Grandjeau^f, Cathy Hawes^j,
Lionel Jouy^k, Eric Justes^d, Roman Kierzek^l, Per Kudsk^m, Jay Ram Lamichhaneⁿ,
Françoise Lescourret^o, Marco Mazzoncini^c, Bo Melander^m, Antoine Messéanⁿ,
Anna-Camilla Moonen^e, Adrian C. Newton^j, Jean-Marie Nolot^d, Silvia Panozzo^p,
Patrick Retaureau^k, Maurizio Sattin^p, Juergen Schwarz^h, Clotilde Toqué^k,
Vasileios P. Vasileiadis^p, Nicolas Munier-Jolain^a

RIFLESSIONI EPISTEMOLOGICHE

LTE



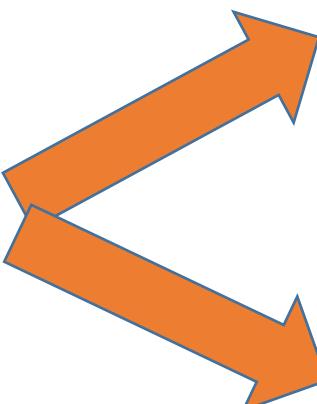
DURATA?

OBIETTIVO

FISSO

ITERATIVO

APPROCCIO



RIFLESSIONI EPISTEMOLOGICHE



Livello dettagli,
facilità
interpretazione
e
pubblicazione,
**STABILITÀ'-
FLESSIBILITÀ'**

Scarsa
verosimiglianza
regole
decisionali

**APPROCCIO
FISSO**



**APPROCCIO
ITERATIVO**

Verosimiglianza
regole
decisionali,
**OTTIMIZAZIONE-
SOSTENIBILITÀ'-
ADATTABILITÀ'**

Difficoltà di
interpretazione e
pubblicazione,
richiede regole
decisionali chiare

RUOLO DEGLI LTEs NELL'ORGANIC FARMING 3.0

Agron. Sustain. Dev. (2017) 37:63
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s13593-017-0472-4>



REVIEW ARTICLE

Converging and diverging principles and practices of organic agriculture regulations and agroecology. A review

Paola Migliorini¹ • Alexander Wezel²

Agron. Sustain. Dev. (2017) 37:63

Page 5 of 18 63

Table 1 Principles of organic farming and agroecology

Organic agriculture EU regulation (EC 2007, Article 4—Overall principles)	Organic agriculture IFOAM Norms (IFOAM 2014)	Agroecology (Nicolli and Altieri 2016; Gliessman 1997, 2014; adapted and further developed from Reijntjes et al. 1992; Altieri 1995 and Altieri and Nicolli 2005; Stassart et al. 2012; Dumont et al. 2013; Dumont et al. 2016)
<p>Organic production shall be based on the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) the appropriate design and management of biological processes based on ecological systems using natural resources which are internal to the system (....);(b) the restriction of the use of external inputs. (...);(c) the strict limitation of the use of chemically synthesised inputs to exceptional cases (...);(d) the adaptation, where necessary, and within the framework of this Regulation, of the rules of organic production taking account of sanitary status, regional differences in climate and local conditions, stages of development and specific husbandry practices.	<p>General principles of organic agriculture: these principles are the roots from which Organic Agriculture grows and develops. They express the contribution that Organic Agriculture can make to the world. Composed as inter-connected ethical principles to inspire the organic movement—in its full diversity, they guide our development of positions, programs and standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health: Organic Agriculture should sustain and enhance the health of soil, plant, animal, human and planet as one and indivisible.• Ecology: Organic Agriculture should be based on living ecological systems and cycles, work with them, emulate them and help sustain them.• Fairness: Organic Agriculture should build on relationships that ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities.• Care: Organic Agriculture should be managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment.	<p>General principles of agroecology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhance the recycling of biomass, with a view to optimising organic matter decomposition and nutrient cycling over time• Strengthen the “immune system” of agricultural systems through enhancement of functional biodiversity—natural enemies, antagonists, etc., by creating appropriate habitats• Provide the most favourable soil conditions for plant growth, particularly by managing organic matter and by enhancing soil biological activity• Minimise losses of energy, water, nutrients and genetic resources by enhancing conservation and regeneration of soil and water resources and agrobiodiversity• Diversify species and genetic resources in the agroecosystem over time and space at the field and landscape level• Enhance beneficial biological interactions and synergies among the components of agrobiodiversity, thereby promoting key ecological processes and services <p>Principles for animal production systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• adopting management practices aiming to improve animal health• decreasing the inputs needed for production,• decreasing pollution by optimising the metabolic functioning of farming systems• enhancing diversity within animal production systems to strengthen their resilience• preserving biological diversity in agroecosystems by adapting management practices <p>Socio-economic principles for agroecology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• create collective knowledge and coping ability• foster farmers’ independence from the market• recognise the value of a diversity of knowledge and know-how

LTEs chiave per allineamento
dell'OF rispetto all'approccio
agroecologico



ASPETTI AGROECOLOGICI DI LTEs IN AGRICOLTURA BIOLOGICA

- Proprietà strutturali degli agroecosistemi
 - **Diversità**, numero di diverse componenti e diversi processi presenti in un agroecosistema, e loro abbondanza relativa
 - **Coerenza**, misura del numero e dell'intensità dei flussi e delle connessioni tra componenti dell'agroecosistema
 - **Connessione**, coerenza verso l'esterno dell'agroecosistema;
- Sono studiate nei LTEs in biologico?
- Sono rilevanti?



ASPETTI AGROECOLOGICI DI LTEs IN AGRICOLTURA BIOLOGICA: ESEMPI

- DIVERSITA'
 - Biodiversità genetica, interspecifica ed intra-specifica
 - Diversificazione dei cicli produttivi
 - Diversità delle fonti di sapere (pratico, accademico...)
- COERENZA
 - Integrare e bilanciare processi biologici ed ecologici all'interno di sistemi produttivi
- CONNESSIONE
 - Inquinamento
 - Infrastrutture ecologiche
 - Dipendenza da fattori esterni e fonti non rinnovabili di energia
 - Integrazione delle filiere agricole in quelle alimentari
 - Scambio di conoscenza tra settore agricolo e ricerca

IMPORTANZA DEL DATA SHARING

PNAS

Enhanced top soil carbon stocks under organic farming

Andreas Göttinger^{a,1}, Adrian Müller^a, Matthias Haeni^{a,b}, Colin Skinner^a, Andreas Fließbach^a, Nina Buchmann^b, Paul Mäder^a, Matthias Stolze^a, Pete Smith^c, Nadia El-Hage Scialabba^d, and Urs Niggli^a

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Edited by William H. Schlesinger, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, NY, and approved August 13, 2012 (received for review June 5, 2012)

Scientia Horticulturae 216 (2017) 148–159

LETTER

doi:10.1038/nature11069

Comparing the yields of organic and conventional agriculture

Verena Seufert¹, Navin Ramankutty¹ & Jonathan A. Foley²



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Scientia Horticulturae



journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/scihorti

Review

Postharvest quality and composition of organically and conventionally produced fruits: A review



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^c Department of Plant Pathology, School of Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Private Bag X01, Scottsville, Pietermaritzburg 3201, South Africa



Review

A World without Hunger: Organic or GM Crops?

Fatemeh Taheri¹, Hossein Azadi^{2,3,*} and Marijke D'Haese¹

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Academic Editor: Iain Gordon

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RESEARCH ARTICLE

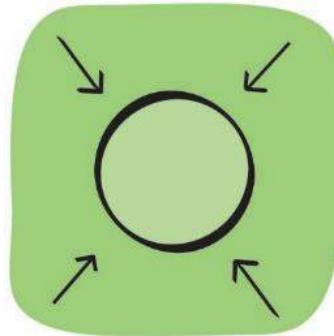
Organic farming enhances soil microbial abundance and activity—A meta-analysis and meta-regression

Martina Lori^{1,2,*}, Sarah Symczak¹, Paul Mäder¹, Gerlinde De Deyn³, Andreas Göttinger^{1,2}

¹ Department of Soil Sciences, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Frick, Switzerland, ² Karl-Glöckner-Str. 21 C, Justus-Liebig University Giessen, Giessen, Germany, ³ Department of Soil Quality, Wageningen University, Wageningen, The Netherlands

* martina.lori@fibi.org

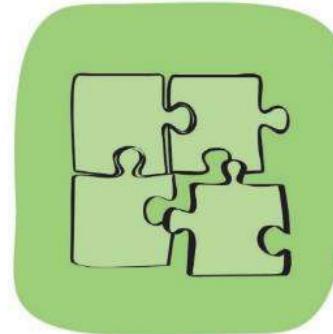
INCLUSIONE STAKEHOLDERS



Analisi condivisa



Consumatori
Agricoltori
Ricercatori
Pubblici decisori



Co-design di nuovi sistemi

Responsabilità collettiva

Scambio e discussione

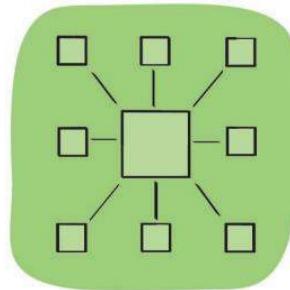
INCLUSIONE STAKEHOLDERS



Disseminazione e
Comunicazione +
efficaci



Videos
Websites
Social media
Summer schools....



LTE come nodi di reti di
Aziende sperimentali
satellite

Tests e dimostrazioni

Budget aggiuntivi
(H2020 RUR)

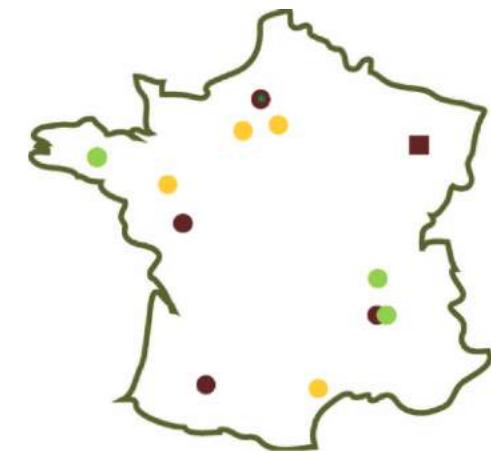
ATTRAZIONE DI FONDI

- LTEs spesso auto-finanziate con fondi istituzionali
- La presenza di LTE aumenta la capacità di attrarre fondi delle istituzioni (GOLDEN WORD nelle call H2020 LS-SFS, Societal challenges, Sustainable Food Systems)
- Soprattutto inclusione in network e consorzi nell'ambito di progetti di ricerca europei
- Esigenza di prevedere strumenti finanziari appositi da parte di istituzioni nazionali e comunitarie



ORGANIC LTEs

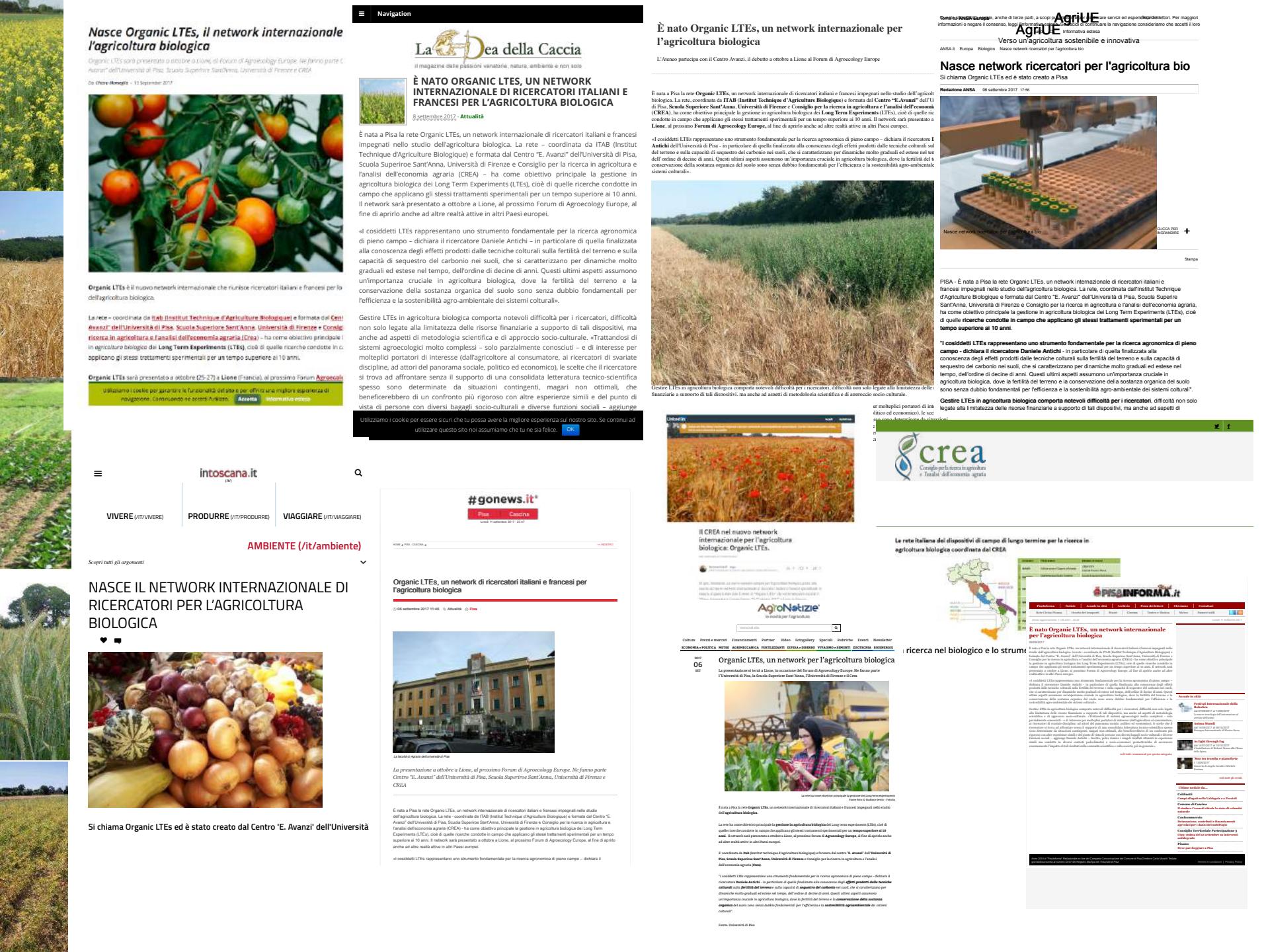
- Nel 2017 nasce come iniziativa bilaterale tra il network francese RotAB e Retibio
- 21-22 giugno 2017: visita di MASCOT e MOLTE, workshop «Organic long term experiments:Sharing French and Italian Experience»



WORKSHOP 21/06/2018

- 9 PARTECIPANTI DA ITAB, 15 DA 5 ATENEI (SSSA, UNIPI, UNIPG, UNITUS, UNIFI), CREA E MIPAF
- PRESENTAZIONE DEGLI LTES (6 FR, 8 IT): OUTLINE, OBIETTIVI, RISULTATI PRINCIPALI;
- 3 GRUPPI DI LAVORO: METODOLOGIA, FUND RAISING, INCLUSIONE STAKEHOLDERS





LIONE, 24-25 OTTOBRE 2017

- 24-25 OTTOBRE 2017: VISITA TAB E CORBAS
- DELEGAZIONE UNIPI, SSSA, UNIFI, CREA





LIONE, 26 OTTOBRE 2017

- WORKSHOP ORGANIZZATO ALL'INTERNO DI AGROECOLOGY EUROPE FORUM
- CIRCA 40 PARTECIPANTI
- IMPULSES DEGLI ORGANIZZATORI
- TAVOLA ROTONDA
- RICHIESTA DI ADESIONI AL NETWORK: 4 NUOVI PAESI (SVEZIA, AUSTRIA, DANIMARCA E SERBIA)
- PRESENTATA INFRASTRUTTURA DI RICERCA SVEDESE
- LANCIO CAMPAGNA COMUNICAZIONE

Highlights/key results of workshops/sessions

#9 - Agroecological issues of organic cropping systems: importance of long term field experiments (LTEs)

- LTEs should encompass all dimensions of agroecology including socio-economics (food system approach)
- There is a crucial need for stakeholders inclusion in the design, management of LTEs (not only farmers)
- Institutional funding opportunities on the long term are helpful to explore innovative cropping systems in LTEs
- Even if fixed or iterative approach are defined on LTE, emerging problems or new available technologies might imply their redesign



First Agroecology Europe
Forum

Perspectives

#9 - Agroecological issues of organic cropping systems: importance of long term field experiments

- Enlarging the network
 - Identifying organic LTEs that could be part of a European network
 - 7 new LTEs identified
- Make a survey to get information of the costs/budget for running LTEs in Europe
- LTEs should address habitat and landscape issues (not or poorly addressed so far)



First Agroecology Europe
Forum



Expérimentations systèmes en grandes cultures biologiques en Europe

+ Champs expérimentaux
+ Champs témoin, ou réels. Rouges

DARCOF

performance des rotations vis-à-vis de la fertilité des sols et du contrôle des bio-agresseurs sur différents types de sols
4 sites de moindre 0,05ha
Depuis 1991

Grandes cultures



Montbuz

donner des clés pour lever le problème restauration fertilité des sols en AB afin d'aider la conversion
Depuis 1991

Grandes cultures



RotAB

évaluer la durabilité et la performance de SdC innovante en grandes cultures biologiques
12 sites systèmes de 2,0ha à 22,0ha
Depuis 2001 pour le plus grand à 2012

Grandes cultures sans élevage



DOS

Comparaison biologique, biodynamique et conventionnel
0,05ha
Depuis 1975

Grandes cultures



Mappaz

Trouver des solutions techniques pour exploitations Bio sans élevage
1,0ha
Depuis 1999

Grandes cultures sans élevage



Biosatir

Etudier l'influence de SdC sur les paramètres agronomiques, environnementaux et économiques
Comparaison Bio et production intégrée
40ha

Depuis 1991



Aberdeens

comparaison 2 rotations avec plus ou moins de cultures fertilisantes
Depuis 1991

Grandes cultures



Apelvall

Effets de SdC sur la production et l'environnement
Comparaison biologique et conventionnelle
1,2ha
Depuis 1999

Grandes cultures



Västana

observer le système de culture propice au mycorhizes
Depuis 1992

Grandes cultures



Priroda

Comparaison 11 rotations différentes associées à la conduite de la fertilisation
Depuis 1995

Grandes cultures



Sotan

évolution de la fertilité du sol
Comparaison biologique et biodynamique
0,24ha
Depuis 1993

Grandes cultures



Limbosso / Giessen

Effets de la rotation et du travail du sol
1,2ha
Depuis 1995

Grandes cultures, avec ou sans élevage



Damstadt

comparer différentes conduites de systèmes de cultures AB et conventionnelle
Depuis 1990

Grandes cultures



Simola Crotone

Comparaison 5 rotations et engraissage aux « anciennes » rotations (Agrumineuses, effluents d'élevage etc.)
Depuis 1994

Grandes cultures



MABOOT

Tester la durabilité agronomique, économique et environnementale de différents SdC
Comparaison bio et production intégrée
24ha
Depuis 2001

Grandes cultures sans élevage

MOLTE

évaluer la durabilité de différents SdC
Comparaison biologique/conventionnelle
15ha
Depuis 1991

Grandes cultures sans élevage

BOULIFÔL

Effets de différents SdC en bio
Ferme isolée = 143,2ha
Depuis 2003

Grandes cultures sans élevage

Ecoz

Rotations économiquement viables et adaptées au contexte climatique
Depuis 1995

Grandes cultures

Fusion et Nitro

développer des prototypes de systèmes de culture agroécologique pour protéger les écosystèmes
Depuis 1990

Grandes cultures





(isofar/)

International Society of Organic Agriculture Research

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Launching a European Organic Long Term Experiment Network

Organic farming, as stated by IFOAM, relies on a holistic and systemic management of the sustainability of agroecosystems. Functioning of organic cropping systems is based on long-term biological processes. Long-term cropping systems experiments (LTE) are thus of major interest for the further development of organic farming.



Visit of French LTEs staff to the MOLTE LTE (Tuscany, Italy) – © Laurence Fontaine, ITAB

Why is there a need for long-term experiment research in Organic Farming? Understanding and managing organic cropping systems require long-term monitoring and assessment of such systems. Moreover, organic farming should be supported by research on exploring new best practices, based on biological processes and aiming at being more sustainable, embracing thus agroecological principles. Long-term cropping systems experiments (LTE) are thus of major interest for the further development of organic farming. Such experiments offer the opportunity to assess agricultural performance at the cropping system scale including inter-annual effects at the crop sequence level. They combine both a holistic and long-term approach of the agroecosystems with a scientific sound approach.

Why building a European organic LTEs network? The objectives of such a network would be (i) to have an overview of the diversity and convergences of LTE research on organic farming in Europe, (ii) to exchange ideas on the way to conduct an organic LTE from design, stakeholder inclusion to data analysis, thus supporting capacity building of the persons in charge of the experiments (iii) to clearly better know each other for further development of collaborative project, aiming also at pooling and comparing results to contribute efficiently to organic research.

ACCESS FOR MEMBERS

Username

Password

Remember Me

[Log in](#)

Forgot your username?

[\(/isofar/index.php/component/users/?view=remind\)](#)

Forgot your password?

[\(/isofar/index.php/component/users/?view=reset\)](#)

ISOFAR

ISOFAR membership benefits [\(/isofar/index.php/benefits-of-isofar-membership\)](#)

Membership application [\(/isofar/index.php/membership-application\)](#)

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27
29 June 2018
Capri Island (Naples), Italy

2nd INTERNATIONAL GRAB-IT WORKSHOP
"Organic farming and agroecology as a response to global challenges"
27-29 June, 2018, Capri Island (Naples), Italy

Extended Deadlines for abstracts submission

The Workshop is jointly organized by GRAB-IT (Research Group in Organic Farming), Department of Agricultural Sciences – University of Naples Federico II (Italy), and Associazione Scientifica Centro di Portici, Naples.

Capri Island is one of the most best-known islands in the entire world. The Seminar will be held at the Anacapri Congress Center Edwin Cerio, Anacapri.



Launching a European organic long term experiment network (/index.php/special-sessions/launching-a-european-organic-long-term-experiment-network)

Session chairs:

Marion Casagrande: Institut Technique de L'Agriculture Biologique (ITAB).

Daniele Antichi: Centro di Ricerche Agro-Ambientali "Enrico Avanzi", University of Pisa (CIRRA).

G.Cesare Pacini: Department of Agrifood Production and Environmental Sciences, University of Florence (UNIFI-DISPA).

Laurence Fontaine: Institut Technique de L'Agriculture Biologique (ITAB).

Stefano Canali: Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria (CREA).

Why is there a need for long-term experiment research in Organic Farming and agroecology?

Organic farming, as stated by IFOAM, relies on a holistic and systemic management of the sustainability of agroecosystems. Functioning of organic cropping systems is based on long-term biological processes. Understanding and managing such systems thus require long-term monitoring and assessment. Moreover, organic farming should be supported by research on exploring new best practices, based on biological processes and aiming at being more sustainable (Rahmann et al. 2016), embracing thus agroecological principles. The agroecology approach also stresses the need for taking into account food system scale, embedding thus a diversity of stakeholders into the research processes (Migliorini and Wezel 2017).

Long-term cropping systems experiments (LTE) are thus of major interest for the further development of organic farming. Such experiments offer the opportunity to assess agricultural performance at the cropping system scale including inter-annual effects at the crop sequence level (Lechenet et al. 2017). They combine both a holistic and long-term approach of the agroecosystems with a scientific and sound approach.

What has been done so far?

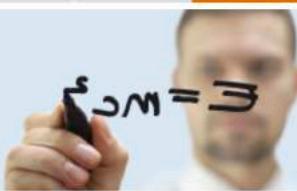
In the last 3 decades, the number of LTEs managed in accordance to organic farming methods and principles has dramatically increased, following the growth of organic agriculture worldwide (Raupp et al., 2006 ; Delate et al., 2017). Since the first steps, LTEs were promoted to study the transition from conventional to organic production and to assess the sustainability of the organic approach, evaluating its productivity, the potential for energy reduction, carbon sequestration and other environmental and social benefits. The focus of the studies related to LTEs has also broadened over time, embracing food quality studies, economic assessments and interaction evaluation with agricultural landscapes.

Open call

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Grazie per l'attenzione

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