

# Negro Farm, Italy

## 2017 Report



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# The Negro Farm at a Glance

The Negro farm was added to the Interra Farm Network family in 2016. Despite having worked with Syngenta Italy for many years, the farm has only recently taken part in this project and many activities to improve the sustainability of farming operations were carried out in 2016.

**The Negro family has been cultivating vineyards on the Roero hills since 1670**, enhancing this beautiful landscape through the production of fine wines from native grapes: Favorita and Arneis (white fruit); Nebbiolo, Barbera, Bonarda, Dolcetto and Brachetto (red fruit). Numerous awards testify the quality of these wines that are produced with care and passion by Giovanni and Marisa Negro, together with their sons and daughters Gabriele, Angelo, Emanuela and Giuseppe. Syngenta has been working with the Negro Farm for many years.



<b>Area farmed</b>	60 ha (3 farms: Monteu Roero, Canale and Neive)
<b>Staff</b>	Family run
<b>Location</b>	Monteu Roero (CN) - Piedmont Region - Italy
<b>Typical climate (average temperature)</b>	Winter - 6° C (min) / 7° C (max) Summer - 14° C (min) / 33° C (max) Annual rainfall - 800 mm
<b>Soil type</b>	Alluvial origin calcareous soil
<b>Farm enterprises</b>	Grapevine
<b>Focus areas</b>	Safe use and storage of Crop Protection products (mixing/loading/washing area); Heliosecc and safe disposal of waste; Biodiversity enhancement (Operation Pollinator); Soil Health; Communication, training and demonstration.



*“The family management business allows to join old and new generations, tradition and new experiences. In keeping with this approach, joining the network Interra Farm Syngenta has enabled the development of projects aimed at maintaining the highest quality of wines responding to the growing need for sustainability and respect for the land.”*

**Negro Family**

# Biodiversity and Sustainability

The relationship between Syngenta and Negro family has evolved from pure technical support for grapevine production to the inclusion of key solutions to enhance the sustainability of their farm. The starting point of the project was the implementation of a field margin with Operation Pollinator and the provision of Heliosec within the Grape Quality Agreement program.

These activities made Negro farm an important example for sustainable farming operations in the area. To promote subsidies for Italian growers, we involved Piedmont regional stakeholders in this project from the beginning.

**With the “Grape Quality Agreement”, Syngenta commits to support grapevine growers through the application of a dedicated spray program, related technology and know-how to meet growers’ identified market access requirements with respect to quality and residue levels**



**Grape Quality Agreement certificate**



**OP visit with regional stakeholders and DISAFA (Turin University)**

# Soil management

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**The Negro family has always been very committed to develop sustainable solutions against soil erosion in their vineyards.**

They are very open to test different agronomic practices, including the use of inter-row cover crops. In one part of their vineyards, they implemented a special drainage system to reduce soil erosion during the heavy rainfalls that are becoming more frequent due to climate change.

The Negro farm was involved in the testing process of the new Syngenta runoff diagnostic tools.



Runoff tool training session

# 2016 Interra roadshow

The launch of the Interra Farm Network in Italy took place in June and was dedicated to the regional stakeholders responsible for the implementation of the Sustainable Use Directive and Rural Development Programmes.

In order to show available solutions that help farmers to become more sustainable, one part of the Negro farm was restructured and modernized:

- To minimize the risk of point source contamination, a cleaning platform (connected to Heliosec) was realized for safe cleaning of spray equipment, rinsing of empty agrochemical containers and effluent management.
- To improve the operators' safety during the mixture preparation, together with Polmac company (spray equipment specialist), we equipped the farm with the Ecobus 600 mixing and loading device.
- The two storage rooms of the farm were renovated and equipped in compliance with the Italian National Action Plan for sustainable use of plant protection products.

After the inauguration event, the Negro farm hosted different local stakeholders and Syngenta employees visits.



# 2017 activities

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**In 2017, specific actions on biodiversity and safe use were taken to better customize the program, following the local needs:**

- dissemination of the Interra Farm model;
- presentation of the runoff tool pilot outcome;
- first results of the research carried out in collaboration with DISAFA (Turin University) on disruption of migration corridors of *S. titanus* (natural vector of grapevine flavescence dorée).

**The pre-work for 2018 included:**

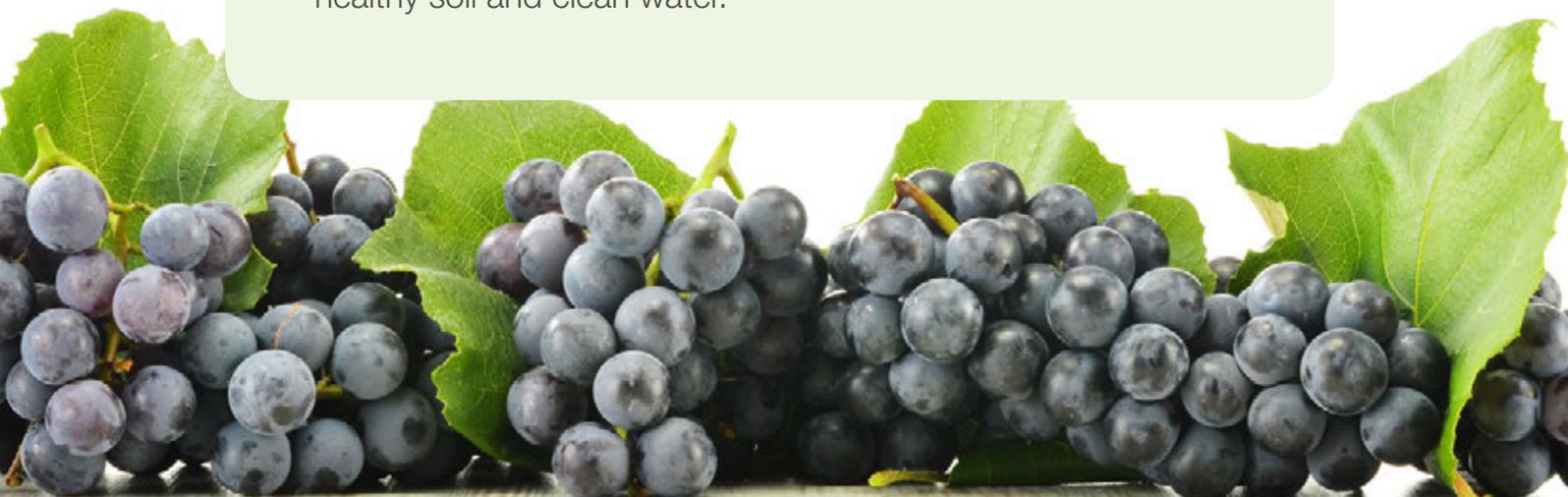
- a check on the behavior of the Negro farm operators to finalize a training on the safe handling of crop protection products;
- a field evaluation together with Padana Sementi to identify a suitable inter-row cover crops mixture to test under Piedmont condition with the aim to reduce soil erosion in new vineyard areas.



# 2018

## Plans for 2018

- Spread results of the DISAFA research on Operation Pollinator (biodiversity, disruption of migrators corridors, runoff/soil erosion) during product launch events planned for 2018.
- Continuous improvement of safe handling of crop protection products in order to encourage the application with the highest operator safety standards.
- In partnership with Cascina Pulita company (waste management specialist), provide Negro farm with an equipped area to promote BMPs on disposal of empty packages.
- Develop a green cover crop mixture to protect the soil after planting of new vineyards.
- Deployment of the Runoff tool among growers (GQA network), technicians (cooperatives and wine producers) and Syngenta employees in order to raise awareness about the link between healthy soil and clean water.





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