

# CREA-VE Farm, Italy

## 2017 Report



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# The CREA-VE Farm at a Glance

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**The Council for Agricultural Research and Economics (CREA) is Italy's largest public entity with general scientific competence in the sectors of agriculture, agricultural food production and industry, fisheries, forestry, food and nutrition and agricultural economics.**

The CREA-VE Research Centre for Viticulture and Enology is under the umbrella of CREA. Its mission is to contribute to the viticulture and enology development process by carrying out and optimizing research and experimentation of national and international interest. CREA-VE encourages relations with public, private, national and international research institutes and promotes debate on scientific topics relevant to Italian Viticulture and Enology. Topics specifically aim at production systems to support the adaptation to climate change, the enhancement of profitability and the increase of quality and safety standards of wines.

The CREA-VE organization will include and lead nine experimental centers in Italy that will be representative for the most relevant viticulture regions.

Syngenta Italia has been working with CREA-VE for many years with field trials and sustainable agriculture projects. Many dissemination and training activities are done in collaboration by inviting technicians, politicians and regulators.

<b>Area farmed</b>	18 ha farm of Spresiano (TV)- 4 ha farm of Susegana (TV)
<b>Staff</b>	3 Workers in the farm 41 (Technicians, researchers and administrative staff)
<b>Location</b>	Via Runco, 45 - Spresiano (TV) - Veneto Region Via Casoni 13/A - Susegana (TV) - Veneto Region
<b>Typical climate (average temperature)</b>	Winter - 2,3°C (min) / 9,7°C (max) Summer - 13,1°C (min) / 23,8°C (max) Annual rainfall - 950 mm
<b>Soil type</b>	Alluvial soil with moderate presence of gravel
<b>Farm enterprises</b>	Council for Agriculture Research and Agricultural Economics Analysis
<b>Focus areas</b>	Safe use and storage of crop protection products (mixing and loading, cleaning area, including Heliosecc); Multifunctional field margins (Operation Pollinator); Runoff diagnostics and on-farm mitigation; Dissemination of BMPs, training and demonstration activities.



# 2017 Interra roadshow “Institution and Sustainability”

The CREA-VE farm joined the Interra Farm Network in 2017. For the inauguration, we organized a roadshow in July and invited advisors, technical and political stakeholders and media journalists. Our objective was to demonstrate how Syngenta’s innovations can help farms and institutions to implement Italy’s very demanding National Action Plan for sustainable use of plant protection products. Because of the association of this farm with CREA, the institutional experimental center, this farm highlights the role of the Italian institutions in the promotion of sustainable agriculture practices to increase the reach of innovations throughout Italy.

The **sustainability model of the Interra Farm** is based on four dimensions: economic, environmental, social and institutional. In addition to the first three traditional dimensions, the institutional aspect of this farm is crucial, because it emphasizes the important role of the Italian authorities for effective implementation of sustainable agriculture practices.

In this area of Italy, institutions and political stakeholders are extremely important in addressing the issues of the increasing restrictions of plant protection products.

During the roadshow, we discussed the Good Growth Plan and presented the CREA-VE Interra Farm as a model for sustainable agriculture practice. Syngenta’s solutions and sustainable agriculture practices were demonstrated directly on the farm.



# Safe use of Plant Protection Products



An extensive activity was dedicated to increase the farm safety. We improved the storage room and put efforts into training operators on safe use. **In partnership with the personal protective equipment (PPE) specialist company 3M**, we provided the best PPE available.

A special storage facility was installed close to the cleaning platform and Heliosec. It was developed by **Metalbox Company**, a containers manufacturer specialist, and is fully compliant for use with plant protection products.



# Multifunctional field margins

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Biodiversity enhancement is a fundamental aspect of sustainable agriculture. In this context, the role of field margins will increase in importance, because they help to comply with the new EU and National regulations. The implementation of field margins mitigates the risk of runoff by creating vegetative buffer strips, which are already a compulsory requirement for some products in Italy.

The new variant of **Operation Pollinator**, specifically designed and tested to improve the performance for runoff mitigation, was developed in partnership with the seed producer company **Padana Sementi Elette**.



## Plans for 2018

In order to keep the Interra Farm Network effective, more activities will be implemented in 2018:

- Meetings and training with all relevant stakeholders (technical and political stakeholders, advisors, farmers).
- Syngenta internal engagement activities.
- Runoff tool deployment and training.
- Further test of new Operation Pollinator variants with better performance and durability.

# 2018



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