



From the Regional Innovation Network to Bio-district: a good starting point to reach a permanent cooperation target

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In a global condition of scarcity of resources available for agriculture, including the “land resource”, there is the need to identify new approach for land management.

Organic farming and, even more, animal husbandry, are increasingly embracing agroforestry models to reach the goal of achieving sustainable intensification of agricultural production. The achievement of this goal, however, will need an increase of knowledge about the applicability of the various forms of agroforestry in local rural contexts, also in light of the effects of climate change.

Through the AFINET project, cooperation and knowledge sharing among stakeholders is promoted; in the last meeting of the Italian Regional Agroforestry Innovation Network (RAIN), various stakeholders participated in a round table with representatives of the “Bio-district of Via Amerina and the Forre”. Stakeholders had the opportunities to know this innovative approach for a sustainable rural development.

Organic farming is a method of cultivation and breeding that allows the implementation of a production model that reduces the over-exploitation of natural resources, especially soil, water and air.

Agroforestry has many points in common with organic farming and therefore, the concept of Bio-district can be applied starting from the RAIN and implemented in an agroforestry scheme. Within the same system, farms with different productive aims (crops or breeding) can share the land as a common factor to have mutual benefits.



Figure 1. 3rd Italian RAIN meeting: presentation of the *Bio-district of Via Amerina e delle Forre*

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