

University of Florence

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Medium term strategies to improve the quality of Mediterranean forests: Valtiberina case in Tuscany

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And Station of Land

## The Tuscany Forest problem

In several countries of the Mediterranean Europe, forest productions are scarcely competitive on the markets. The survival of the enterprises of the sector depends, mainly, from a public aid that in the future will decrease progressively. Thus, it becomes necessary to revitalize the sector which, otherwise, will run into a quick decline. The problem is mostly linked to the typologies of forest resources, that, for the case of Central Italy, are mainly represented by aged coppices, and sporadic tree species (mesophile species like: mountain maple, linden tree, ash tree and yew tree, etc.).

## The forestry problem:

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- Low value Forest (aged coppices)
   Small forest enterprises
  - Small forest enterprises (no much equipment)



## Aim of the study

- Define the strategy useful to gain three mutually objectives:
  - Maintain forest activities in defense of the Tuscan wood
  - Increase the profitability of forest activities
  - Improve the quality of forests in order to promote the production of valuable species

## How is it possible?

- Through analysis of local resources
- Through the study of forestry enterprises operating within territory

Through the study of local and external markets of timber industry and relationships they have with the territory

# What is the territorial situation?

## Site study: Valtiberina

- Area 660 km<sup>2</sup> across North Apennines
- The territory is almost completely covered by woodlands (wood index of 61%).
- Usable Agricultural Surface is 35%
  - The most common silvicultural system is coppice (more the 80%).



## **Typical agricultural products**

Tabacco Kentuky 1.709 hectares (11% UAS) – from which it derives the most production of Tuscan cigars
212 farms with 11,000 head of Chianina (production costs twice than any other beef breed)





### **VALTIBERINA FOREST 1/2**

GUA

### **VALTIBERINA FOREST 2/2**



## Sporadic tree species

mountain maple
linden tree
ash tree
yew tree
maple
apple
cherry

sorb
durmast
oak
holly
corck
laburnum
Mountain elm
elm

 According to the Forest Inventory of Tuscany (IFR) within 1 million hectares of forest there are about 90 million of sporadic tree species.
 This means that there are on average more than 80 plants per hectare. It is an indicative value which may vary from area to area and from different Silvicultural system.
 In coppice is usually double.



Pine and Black pine Matsucoccus feytaudi Ducasse (cochineal)







## **Strategic actions**

Existing forests Aged coppices with lower value (turkeyoak and hornbeam), and mediterranean coniferous forests <u>Transition forests.</u> coppice, with estensive groups of valuable species introduced by renewal groups and High Forest Cutting

<u>Quality Forests</u> mesophile hardwood species with mountain maple, linden, durmast, ash, etc..

# How is it possible..from economic point of view?

## ... Opportunities are related to energy sector

- In the short term, the development of forest-wood-energy chain, can certainly be an interesting opportunity for the economic improvement of forest resources of Valtiberina.
  - This is a complementary chain to the traditional firewood chain, which uses raw materials from :
    - Wood thinning in conifers wood;
    - High forest cutting;
    - Clear cutting in coppice and high forest;
    - Cutting in riparian wood;
    - urban green pruning;
    - agricultural tree crops pruning (grapevine, olive).

## Forest regulation point of view

### Coppice

Production of traditional timber assortments to which we associate the production of wood chips deriving from the residues of the forest harvesting.



## Sporadic tree species

<u>Spreading of the tree</u> <u>tecnique</u>, with gradual thinning round target plants

Target plant

Mix Beech coppice with sporadic elms EX: TECNICAL APPROACH TO SPORADIC TREE SPECIES

#### (SPREADING OF THE TREE)

identification of <u>target</u> <u>plants</u> and relative crown cover

During coppice harvesting...Clear cutting, high forest conversion, thinning



## Local development model

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# Methodology to define strategies and actions

## **Dinamic SWOT**





#### S.W.O.T. (Strenghts-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats)

#### **Internal analysis**



Strenghts



#### **External analysis**



Opportunities



## **SWOT ON THE PRESENT SITUATION**

- The four points of view of SWOT will be now examined considering:
  - the present conditions of the firms' structures;
  - the current typology of forest stands;
  - the present market for the wood products (selling of fire wood on the local market).

## **MEDIUM TERM SWOT**

- Now let us see the four points of view of the SWOT, hypothesizing the introduction of actions from RDP, with the aims of:
- Favoring the diversification of the production, stimulating the production of wood chips for energetic use
- Improving the quality of forest elements through interventions regarding the high forest cutting (mainly in the beech coppices),
- Specific improvement of the hilly forest stands with durmast;
- Improvement of the forest stands with valuable broad-leaves (Mountain maple, lime tree, ash tree, yew tree);
- Improving of the forest roads;
- Updating knowledge of the forest workers;
- Favoring the installation of heating plants fed with wood chips in the public buildings;
  - Favoring the acquisition of technologies for the forest-woodenergy chain.

## LONG TERM SWOT

- The four points of view of SWOT are evaluated considering the effects that the actions of RDP may have in the long-term.
- In this case the enterprises' structures should have adequated themselves for a diversified production (such as <u>lumbers from valuable species</u>, <u>energetic products and</u> <u>services</u> – including cogeneration).

## **KNOWLEDGE MAPS**

- The cognitive maps allow the visual evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats of a specific enterprise project.
- Through these maps it is possible to have a clear perception of the results, which derives from PEST and SWOT analysis and to have a clear evidence of the future sector dynamics.
- These maps are created evaluating the contribution that each factor gives to the definition of the degree of strength or weakness of the <u>enterprise</u> or the opportunities or threats from the <u>external factors</u>.
- The contribution of each parameter has been evaluated through a scale of linguistic quantifiers:
  - 5= very important, 4= important, 3= medium, 2= scarce, 1= not important

#### dinamic S.W.O.T. Forest enterprise Valtiberina

ROT

GUAD

Naz di Pescoc



## **DINAMIC SWOT RESULTS**

## Action: (defined specific incentives for RDP)

#### For Harvest enterprise:

- Incentive to buy technologies for the development of the forest-wood-energy chain.
- Training of forest workers;

#### For forest enterprise

- Incentive to increase diffusion of mesophile species in the forest stand (Durmast, ash, linden ,etc);
  - Improving of the forest roads system.
  - Incentive for high forest cutting (mainly in the beech coppices), and substitution conifers with specific renaturalization
- Incentive for forest planting (mesophile species)
- To increase chips demand
  - Incentives to buy heating plants fueld by biomass in public buildings, and private-public buildings

## Estimated Economic effect (Valtiberina)

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A			Gross	1 Part and a faile		
lad. Alta	scenari	Product Energetic production and Heating service (€)		Thermica I power (Mwh/yr)	Volume Heated (mc)	Fuel saved (i/yr)
0	nly with Actual forest rea	sidues	3,168,000	39,600	264,000	4,666,667
CC LY	With potential forest rea	<b>sidues</b>	4,732,032	59,150	394,336	6,970,586
	forest and agricultural re	sidues	5,472,346	68,404	456,029	8,061,115
C	Chipping residues ad fire	-wood	14,400,000	180,000	1,200,000	21,212,121
ed in the second	* considerando 3 Mw/t al netto perdite di sistema e vendita calore a 80 €/M w term (prezzo corrente servizio) ** considerando le sole utilizzazioni attualmente effettuate					
s.t			and the second	More t	hen 1.400 t	anker

Annual thermic consumption of the main city of the area : 320.000 Mw (Arezzo)

## thanks for your attention

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### Esempio: contracting – vendita calore



Modulo mobile (plug&play), con caldaia a cippato fino a 150 kW, particolarmente idoneo al contracting agroforestale

#### 10% di iva

• **Legge finanziaria 2006**, comma 423 dell'art. I

 Legge II marzo 2006 n°81 (Gazzetta Ufficiale n. 59 del 11 marzo 2006 - Supplemento Ordinario n. 58) Legge finanziaria 2007 Produrre energia elettrica e termica da fonti agroforestali da parte di imprenditori agricoli che utilizzano materie prime prodotte **prevalentemente** dalla proprie aziende agricole è riconosciuta attività agricola connessa ed assoggettata a reddito agrario.