

BUILDING A SYSTEM OF BIO-DISTRICTS IN ITALY IN THE FRAMEWORK OF NATIONAL POLICIES

By Kim Assaël

Starting from the territory of Cilento, the innovative strategy of Bio-districts is extending from the south to the north of Italy. With the promotion and support of the Italian Association for Organic Agriculture AIAB, today the formally constituted Bio-districts are nine and others are being activated in the regions of Molise, Puglia, Basilicata. Here there are the Bio-districts already operating:

Bio-District Cilento – Campania Region

Bio-District Grecanico – Calabria Region

Bio-District Via Amerina e Forre – Lazio Region

Bio-District Greve in Chianti – Toscana Region

Bio-District Chianti Storico – Toscana Region

Bio-District San Gimignano – Toscana Region

Bio-District Val di Gresta - Trentino Alto Adige Region

Bio-District Val di Vara – Liguria Region

Bio-District Valli Valdesi – Piemonte Region

The Bio-districts are territories-school, determined to work in a network that represents about 1,800 organic farms and which operates on a territorial dimension of 6,405 km², with nearly 470 thousand inhabitants.

To exchange operating strategies, effective methods of work adopted and the results achieved, the Bio-districts are collecting information on the most relevant data: the organic agricultural land; the increase of employment in different economic sectors involved (agriculture, tourism, culture, renewable energy); the management and recycling of waste; the recognition of local products and crafts to recover traditional knowledge at risk of disappearance; the impact of initiatives on labour integration of people with physical and psycho-social handicap.

The Bio-districts have also developed a strategy to have an impact in the framework of national development policies of the Italian government to generate new measures to support actions in the territories. In February 2014, the Network of Bio-districts presented its experience to the leaders of the Department of Development and Economic Cohesion of the Ministry of Economic Development. Government officials have



acknowledged that the Bio-districts represent an innovative approach that can give a great contribution to the National Strategy on Internal Areas proposed as a priority by the Italian Government in the framework of the Programme of the Structural Funds of the European Commission 2014-2020.

Also considering this political result, in its Executive Board the Italian Association for Organic Agriculture AIAB has approved the formal constitution of the national network of Bio-districts and it has registered the brand *Bio-distretti* that will be organized to guarantee its correct use.

To know more

[Biodistricts Brochure](#)

[AIAB website](#)

