



Regional Programme of Innovative Actions

”INNOVAZIONE SICILIA”

*Regione Siciliana –
Assessorato Agricoltura e Foreste
Giuseppe Spatà
Angelo Strano*

*KNOWLEDGE FOR REGIONAL INNOVATION –
Towards “Regions for Economic Change”
Thematic Working Group – “Industry Science Relations”*

Brussels, 10-05-2007

The Programme

The Programme is aimed at stimulating innovation in the Sicilian regional economy, namely in the **agro-food sector**, through the creation of **cooperation networks** among the following:

- **Small and Medium Enterprises**
- **Research centres**
- **Universities**
- **Business support services**
- **Local administrations**
- **Financial intermediaries**

Total budget: 4,5 million EURO (Co-financed by ERDF)

Start: 2003 → End: 2006

The Programme was coordinated by the **Planning Department** of the Sicilian regional government, and implemented by the **Agriculture and Forests Department** and the **Industry Department**.

The Approach

The approach of the Programme was to develop **cooperation networks involving all innovation actors at local level** in order to bridge the science-industry gap

The main success factors of this approach were:

- involvement of **all necessary scientific, technological and managerial** skills;
- targeted **animation and networking** activities to involve potential project partners;
- generation of **follow-ups and spill-over** effects beyond project lifetime
- revamping of **traditional economic sectors** (i.e. agriculture)
- **joint identification and exploitation** of new business opportunities

The Action Lines

The Programme activities have been split into four action lines:

→ Action 7.1 - **Innovative projects and cooperation networks** in the agro-food sector, and an **innovation database**

→ Action 7.2 – Feasibility study for the establishment of an **innovation fund**

→ Action 7.3 - **Modeling of experiences**, transnational exchange and dissemination of results

→ Action 7.4 – Technical Assistance

The Innovative Projects

→FRANTOLIO

Promotion and typisation of olive oils produced in remote areas of Sicily

→OLIOTEC

Enhancement of bio-technological characterization and traceability of Sicilian olive oils

→ENHANCEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF TABLE OLIVES

Dissemination of innovative techniques for the preservation of table olives

→SANIGRADE

Innovative chemical techniques for the stocking of cereals used in the production of bread and pasta

→OTTAGONO

Promotion of innovative products and processes by using low-value raw materials

→TRINCIAPOLLO

Innovative farming methods in the poultry sector, particularly with respect to traceability and feedstuff

The Innovation Database

The Innovation Database is a complementary measure to Action 7.1 aimed at:

- **Collecting data** on economic sectors covered by the Programme;
- **Elaborating statistics** on the innovation demand in the regional economy;
- **Displaying information** on research activities in the concerned sectors, providing external links.

Main features of the database are:

- Elaboration of the **demand for innovation** arising from genuine local needs
- **Platform for inter-exchange** between demand and supply of innovation
- **One-stop-shop** for the development of the science-industry relations.

Accompanying Measures

→ ACTION 7.2 - FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INNOVATION FUND

The objective of this action was to conduct a feasibility study for the establishment of a financial instrument in order to fund and support new enterprises and/or innovative projects within existing enterprises at the regional level.

The project output has been included in the 2007-2013 Structural Funds planning priorities for Sicily.

→ AZIONE 7.3 - MODELING OF EXPERIENCES, TRANSNATIONAL EXCHANGE AND DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

The action was aimed at fostering the uptake of the innovative methodologies and techniques developed by the funded projects at a broader regional level, by means of the following:

- Good Practices Manual (available in English)
- 9 local workshops and international seminars
- 4 newsletter editions
- Bilingual promotional brochure

The OTTAGONO Project - 1

- **OBJECTIVE:**
Experiment innovative use and commercial exploitation of low-profitability and production rejects vegetable products.
- **PARTNERS:**
6 SMEs, 1 public research centre, 1 business support organisation.
- **ACTIVITIES:**
Development of production line; analyses and research; product processing; panel test and marketing, development of traceability software.
- **COST:** €700.000, of which €560.000 as public contribution

The OTTAGONO Project - 2

→ INNOVATIVE FEATURES:

Starting-up of a virtuous circle of operational processes that has fostered SMEs' demand for innovative facilities. These facilities concern mainly the enhancement of agro-food products and the rationalization of industrial processes, including the spreading of know-how, e-commerce, e-marketing, etc.

→ SUCCESS FACTORS:

- In-depth knowledge of productions and companies
- High skill level of personnel involved
- Developed system of networks in the distribution chain
- Localisation of initiatives in a highly specialised agro-food sector area
- Establishment of panel test group to test the new products

→ REPLICABILITY:

The project has shown a high level of awareness-raising amongst participating companies. Moreover further animation and dissemination activities could trigger the mainstreaming of the proposed experience.

The OLIOTEC Project - 1

→ **OBJECTIVE:**

Improve the quality of olive oil through biotech characterization of genotypes, traceability and enhancement of the production line.

→ **PARTNERS:**

10 SMEs, 2 public research centres, 1 business support organisation.

→ **ACTIVITIES:**

Research activities, experimentation of methodologies, exploitation of results.

→ **COST:** €698.120, of which €500.656 as public contribution

The OLIOTEC Project - 2

→ **INNOVATIVE FEATURES**: Application of innovative biotechnological techniques, developed in the medical sector, on experimental level, in order to obtain olive oil with a high extra-value.

→ **SUCCESS FACTORS**:

The key success factors can be identified as the fruitful cooperation amongst the several actors possessing knowledge in the field.

Another success factor has been that of the dissemination of new technologies in order to apply ICT to production lines.

All companies have been involved as both producers and consumers of innovation, inasmuch they have mutually exchanged relevant information.

→ **REPLICABILITY**:

The Project allowed for exchange of knowledge amongst all actors involved. The methodologies developed can be successfully mainstreamed to the regional context by establishing a web-based community where actors involved can exchange data and information on the regional level.

THANK YOU!

www.innovazionesicilia.it

prai.innovazionesicilia@regione.sicilia.it

Regione Siciliana: Assessorato Agricoltura e Foreste – Servizi allo Sviluppo

www.sesa.regione.sicilia.it