



– press release –

4 per Mille Initiative, today in Germany the International Symposium on Soil Organic Matter Management in Agriculture

Biogasdoneright is proposed in Europe as a solution for a sustainable agriculture

Gattoni (CIB): "Biogasdoneright and double crops reduce emissions, enrich the soil and store organic carbon in the soil, neutralizing the carbon footprint of livestock and farms."

To transform the agricultural and livestock sector from a producer of *greenhouse gas* emissions to a neutral agent or, even, **an active tool for the removal of carbon dioxide**: This is the ambitious goal that the **Consorzio Italiano Biogas (CIB)** has set itself through the **Biogasdoneright model** that many Italian farmers that are members of CIB are already applying. One of these is the **Palazzetto farm in Grumello Cremonese (CR) in Po Valley**, whose results analyzed by the CRPA of Reggio Emilia, in terms of strengthening activity and reducing environmental impact, were presented this morning in Braunschweig, Germany, during the international symposium "Soil organic matter management in agriculture Assessing the potential of the 4per1000 initiative" on the management of organic matter in agricultural soils, inspired by the international initiative 4 per Mille.

Since 2009, with the installation of the biogas plant and the introduction of double crops, the Palazzetto farm has significantly increased the crop of maize for fodder, which has increased from 65 tons per hectare of maize as first crop to over 100 tons per hectare with double crops, covering more than 70% of the more than 250 hectares of land throughout the year. At the same time, **the number of dairy cattle has risen from 200 to 300**. Thanks to the use of digestate as a natural fertilizer, there has been an **increase of between 0.5 and 1 tonne per hectare in soil organic carbon over the last 10 years, corresponding to 4 tonnes of CO₂ emissions avoided**. These practices, combined with precision farming and no-till techniques, have led to **an increase of 49% in production yield per hectare**, allowing a **16% reduction in fuel consumption** for handling agricultural machinery and **20% in the use of irrigated water**.

"The case of our member farm Palazzetto - says **Piero Gattoni, president of CIB** - shows that an agricultural activity with an integrated biogas/biomethane plant that applies the **Biogasdoneright model**, increasing the use of land with double crops and adopting advanced and conservative processing techniques, **can reduce emissions and store organic carbon** available to the crops, thus **neutralizing its carbon footprint**."

"**Double crops do not take away from food** - Gattoni points out - regardless of their type and starch content, because they are additional crops that allow to increase agricultural production in a sustainable way to respond to new markets of the bio-economy. The additional crops fertilized with digestate, contribute to improve soil fertility by promoting the **storage of organic carbon, reducing chemicals in the fields**, not only because they reduce the use of synthetic fertilizers, but also pesticides and herbicides. Finally, they **promote the resilience of soils** to negative soil erosion, leaching and runoff."

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*The **4 pour Mille Initiative**, born in 2015 in the context of COP21 in Paris, aims to trigger a transition of traditional agriculture towards more eco-sustainable models, starting from the idea that it would be enough to increase carbon storage in the soil by 4 per thousand a year to offset atmospheric emissions from the primary sector. For more information, please log on to www.4p1000.org*

***CIB** is a national consortium representing the entire agricultural biogas chain, from biogas producers to plant producers and service providers for biogas and biomethane production. Its objectives are to promote, disseminate and coordinate the activities of the entire biogas sector in Italy. CIB actively promotes the Biogasdoneright® or Biogasfattobene® model as a sustainable and concrete model for the production of food, fodder and energy that at the same time allows the decarbonization of the agricultural sector. CIB currently has almost 800 member companies and more than 440 MW of installed capacity. For further information: www.consorziobiogas.it*