

# ASPARAGUS IN ITALY : PRODUCTION AND MARKET

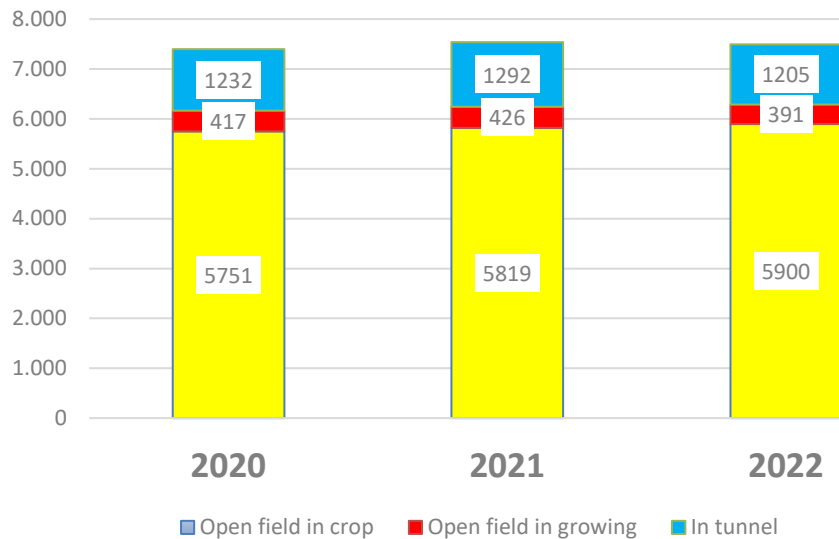


## ASPARAGO IN ITALIA: PRODUZIONE E MERCATO

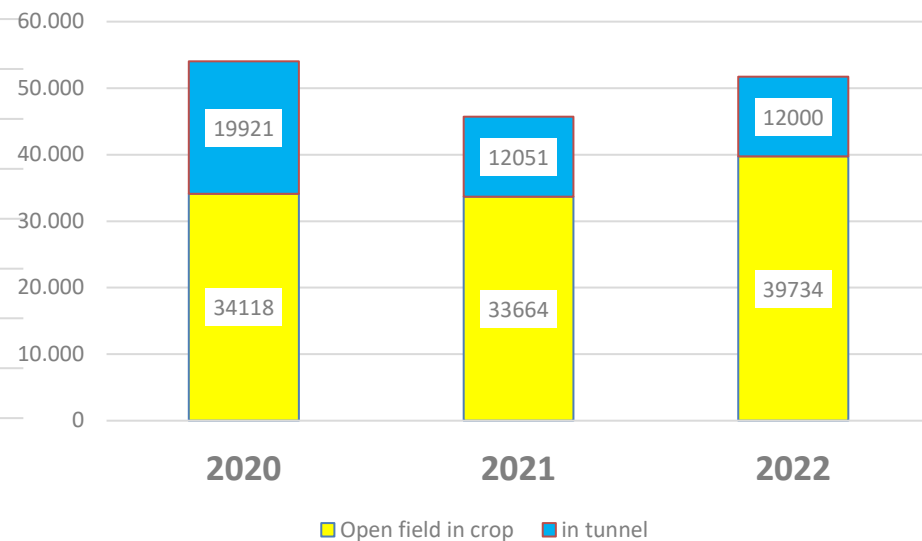
Luciano Trentini

# Asparagus in Italy

### Surface (Hectares)



### Production (Ton)



Source: Official data by ISTAT

The data collected by ISTAT are slightly lower than that of the survey carried out at the manufacturing companies (CSO).

Overall there are 7,500 Ha between greenhouse and open field crops against 9,000 Ha from CSO.

# Italy: Declining asparagus surfaces

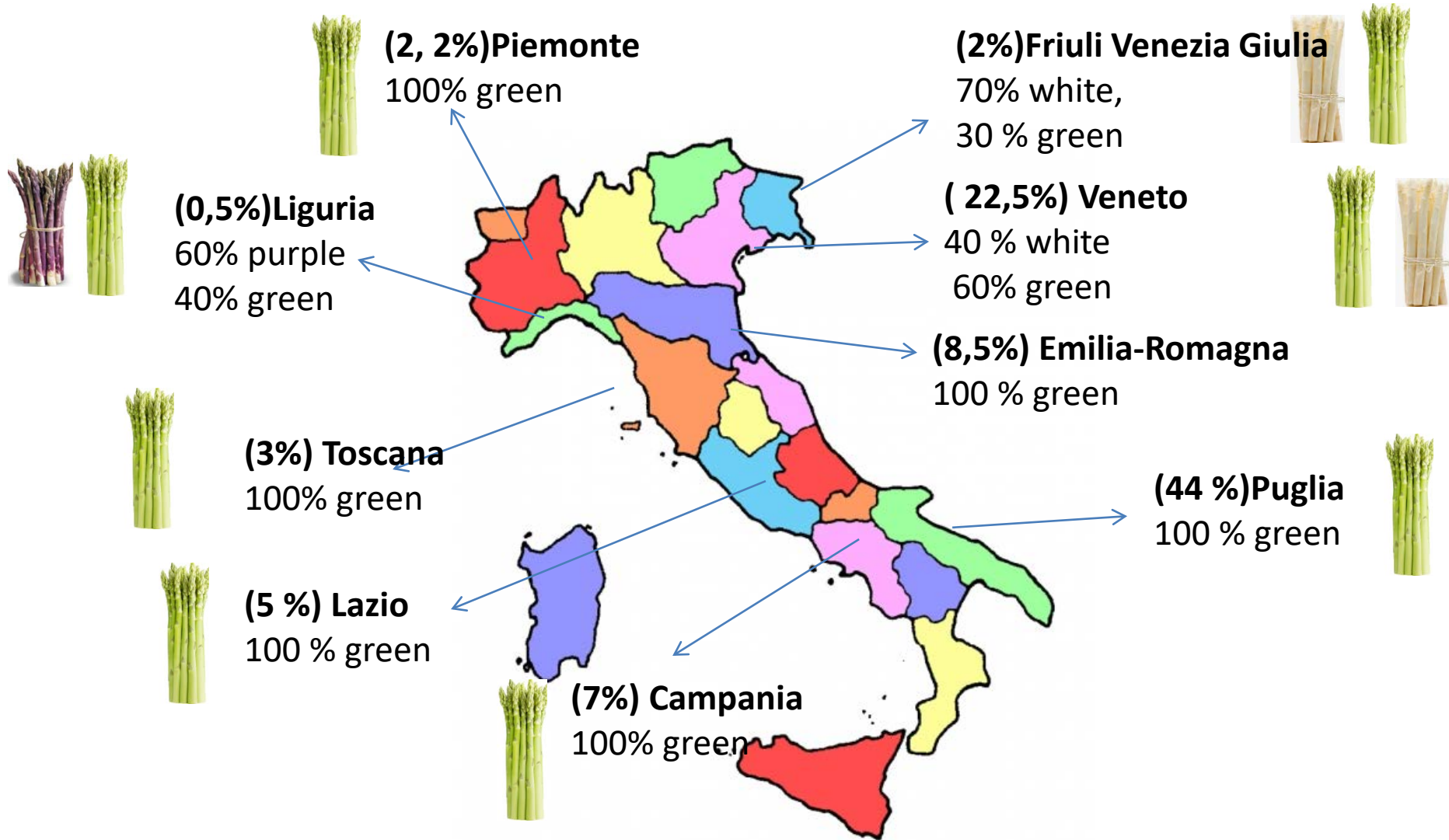
- In this period of Covid, a shortage of manpower, climate change, a drop in consumption, a reduction in market prices have resulted a reduction in cultivated areas which for 2022 have been calculated at 9,000 hectares.
- The decline was estimated to be 8% compared to 2021 and 18% compared to 2020.

## The types of asparagus grown in Italy

In Italy the cultivation of asparagus gives priority to the cultivation of green asparagus spread throughout the national territory and destined for: the internal fresh market, the processing industry and export especially towards Northern Europe.

The white asparagus are grown only in the North East (Veneto, Friuli Venezia Giulia and Trentino Alto Adige) are consumed on the domestic market and are exported above all to Germany, Austria and Switzerland and others.

# The types of asparagus grown in Italy and representativeness divided by significant region



# The trade balance of asparagus in Italy

IL COMMERCIO ESTERO DEGLI ASPARAGI NEL 2021 E CONFRONTO CON IL 2020

Fonte: elaborazione BMTI su dati ISTAT

IMPORTAZIONI ANNO 2021

5.787 tonnellate +69,9% ↑

23,6 milioni di euro +77% ↑

45% Spagna (+61%)  
15% Paesi Bassi (+74%)



ESPORTAZIONI ANNO 2021

11.337 tonnellate +21% ↑

49,2 milioni di euro +35% ↑

44% Germania (+34%)  
16% Austria (+28%)  
11% Svizzera (-10%)

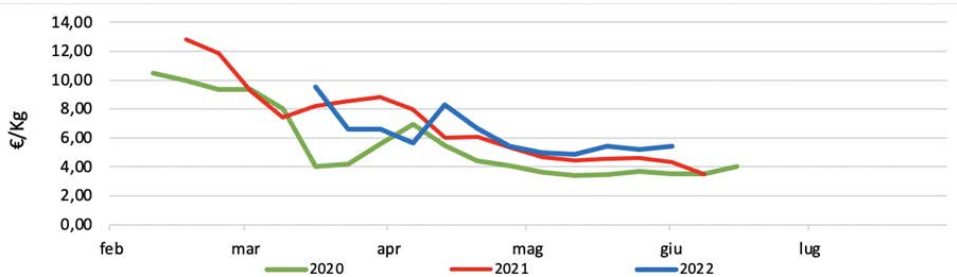
+5.550 tonnellate  
+25,5 milioni di euro

A positive trade balance of over 25 million Euros which offers further growth potential.

# The white asparagus market in Italy

I PREZZI DEGLI ASPARAGI BIANCHI CAT. I ORIG. ITALIA (€/KG) NELLE ULTIME TRE CAMPAGNE

Fonte: dati rilevati nei mercati all'ingrosso ed elaborati da Unioncamere-BMTI e Italmercati

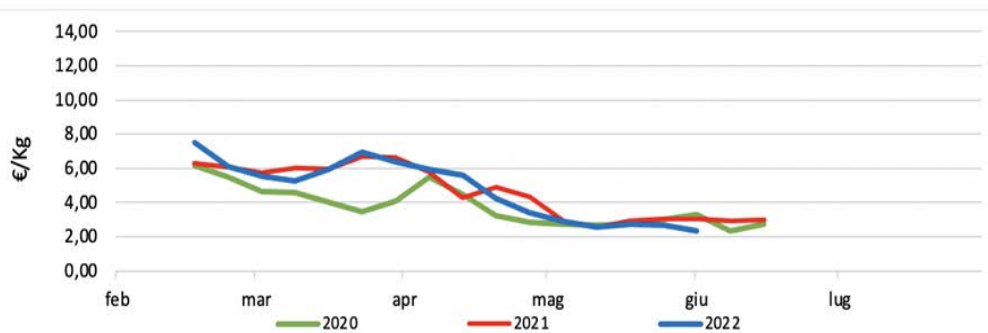


The situation was similar for white asparagus, initial productivity was moderate especially where the correct techniques were applied (e.g. double covering). With the increase of the temperatures, the quality and production level decreased leading to an increase in the market value which remained higher than in the previous two years

# The green asparagus market in Italy

I PREZZI DEGLI ASPARAGI VERDI CAT. I ORIG. ITALIA (€/KG) NELLE ULTIME TRE CAMPAGNE

Fonte: dati rilevati nei mercati all'ingrosso ed elaborati da Unioncamere-BMTI e Italmercati



A difficult year for asparagus producers, who had to deal with two important problems. On the one hand, the very cold spring temperatures accompanied by the lack of rain delayed the harvests which ended early due to the sharp rise in temperatures and the lack of rain which caused the qualitative deterioration of the shoots and the drop(fall) in prices above below the cost of production.

# Prospects for 2023

- Given the economic results of the 2022 campaign, a campaign with limited new investments is expected for 2023.
- The increase of costs required for new investments also makes farmers think.
- Given the scarce availability of manpower (60% of the needs) it is necessary to look for other solutions that allow to improve the mechanization of the collection.
- From an organizational and commercial point of view, it is necessary to implement strategies that allow the producer's income to be stabilized.  
From an organizational and commercial point of view, it is necessary to implement solutions that allow the producer's income to be stabilized.
- Production forecasts are needed that allow product flows to be managed correctly and reduce the potential risk of market crises.
- With what tool?
- The establishment of an **Osservatorio delle previsioni produttive** which is based on studies and analyzes of agronomic and climatic trends with the aim of knowing in advance the potential production.

# Thank you for your attention!

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