



31° Salone internazionale del biologico e del naturale
31st International exhibition of organic and natural products

SATURDAY AT SANA: THE STATISTICS FROM SINAB, THE CULTURE OF THE SANA ACADEMY THE CONVENTION ON THE ECO-PACK

DATA FROM MIPAAF PRESENTED AT SANA

Today at the stand of the Ministry for Agriculture, Food, Forestry and Tourism Policy, the latest data from **SINAB - Sistema di Informazione Nazionale sull'Agricoltura Biologica (National Information System for Organic Agriculture)** was presented. Almost 2 million hectares of agricultural land is used for organic agriculture, an increase of 3% on 2017 and of 75% compared with 2010. An area as large as the Apulia region and equal to 15.5% of the national total agricultural land used. There are 79,000 active operators, an increase of 4% on the previous year.

This data confirms Italy's leadership role in the organic sector in Europe and worldwide, at the forefront in terms of the number of producers and transformers of agricultural products: Italian companies are betting on organic and sustainability. Numbers are increasing also when it comes to consumption (+102% since 2013) with a progressive distribution of sales among various retail channels.

THE FIRST MEETINGS OF THE SANA ACADEMY

The SANA ACADEMY opened this morning with the convention "**Adverse reactions to foods: food allergies and intolerances**", which saw discussions of food allergies, adverse reactions relating to the immune system, compared with the increasingly numerous intolerances that can have a metabolic or pharmacological origin. Speaking at the event was Patrizia Restani (Ordinary Professor of Food Chemistry at the University of Milan), who opened a window onto an important autoimmune pathology, celiac disease, an illness caused by a reaction to gluten, or rather, some proteins present in wheat, barley, rye and spelt and some other less known cereals.

During the afternoon event, Chiara Di Lorenzo (researcher in Food Chemistry at the Department of Pharmacological and Biomolecular Science at the University of Milan) tackled a particularly contemporary, and often underestimated issue linked to the widespread use of dietary supplements containing vegetable based ingredients: the possible "**Interactions between ingredients, botanical and medicinal supplements**" with a particular focus on those with a high level of causality. Dietary supplements containing botanicals (Plant Food Supplements- PFS) are among the products most commonly used by consumers: it is estimated, in fact, that around 20% use them at least once a year. The physiological systems most affected in adverse events due to interactions are the gastro-intestinal system, the central nervous system and the cardiovascular system, and the plants most commonly implicated include valerian, green tea, ginkgo biloba and St John's wort.

AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING

At the meeting "**Eco-products in eco packs: a passport for exports?**" organised by SANA, in collaboration with the magazine COM.PACK, Patrizia Perego (Food Engineering Lab of the Civil, Chemical and Environmental Engineering Department of the University of Genoa) focused on how to create value from



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the residues from the food agriculture industry by extracting noble molecules to produce medicinal products, cosmetics and organic packaging. Massimo Zonca (Packaging and Process Technologies Expert) spoke about the adoption of biomaterials for packaging and the implications of an approach to packaging in line with environmental sustainability objectives, while Antonella Simone (financial analyst and founding member of EXSSA) outlined the function of eco-packaging, which transforms packaging from potential waste into an asset.

For further information

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