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 "The evaluation of forest Policies and Programmes"  
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**NEW TRENDS IN  
 ITALIAN FOREST POLICIES:  
 A SHIFT OF THE FOCUS FROM THE  
 MOUNTAIN TO THE PLAIN**

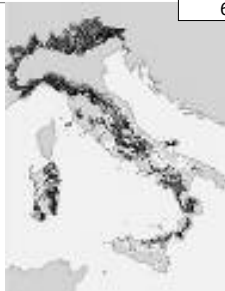
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**Paper organisation**

- A. The Italian forests in plain areas
- B. The *driving forces* shifting the focus to the plain forests:
  - external factors
  - internal factors
- C. Final considerations

**A. The Italian forests in plain: the current situation**

Total forested area:  
 9.7 M ha (CORINE Land Cover statistical data)  
 6.8 M ha (Italian Statistical Office)

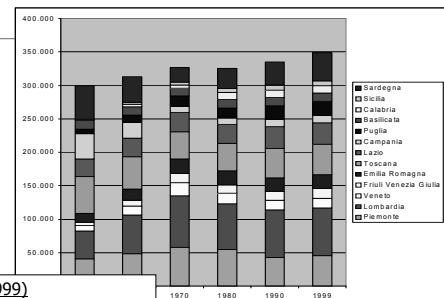


95% in mountainous and hilly areas



only 5% in plain areas

**A limited expansion  
 in the period 1950-1999**



348,800 ha (1999)  
 +21,900 ha with respect to 1970  
 + 49,300 ha with respect to 1950

Expansion of forests in plain areas by Region (1950-1999)  
 (ISTAT statistical data)

Forest cover rate in plain areas by Region (1950-1999)  
 (ISTAT statistical data)

Regioni	1999	99-70	99-50
Piemonte	5,4%	-1,5%	0,6%
Lombardia	5,0%	-0,4%	2,0%
Veneto	1,1%	-0,4%	0,5%
Friuli Venezia Giulia	3,1%	0,1%	2,1%
Emilia Romagna	1,3%	0,0%	0,4%
Toscana	2,7%	0,2%	-0,6%
Lazio	2,5%	0,3%	0,5%
Campania	1,2%	0,2%	-3,1%
Puglia	1,1%	0,3%	0,8%
Basilicata	2,4%	0,0%	-0,1%
Calabria	1,2%	0,7%	1,2%
Sicilia	0,4%	0,2%	0,3%
Sardegna	2,0%	1,0%	-0,4%
<b>Totale</b>	<b>2,1%</b>	<b>0,1%</b>	<b>0,3%</b>

Two main limiting factors:  
 1) intensive farming in high productive flat areas  
 2) land demand for infrastructure development

**Since the beginning of the last century**

Italian forest policy =

- Focus on: soil protection, water cycle control and wood production (→ development of marginal mountain economies)
- Instruments: strict public control on wood harvesting, limited incentives to forest owners



B. In the '90 a **structural change**: a shift of the focus of forest policies from the mountain to the plain area

Which are the *driving forces*?

- External and
- Internal factors to the forestry sector

B.1 The *driving forces*: external factors to the forestry sector

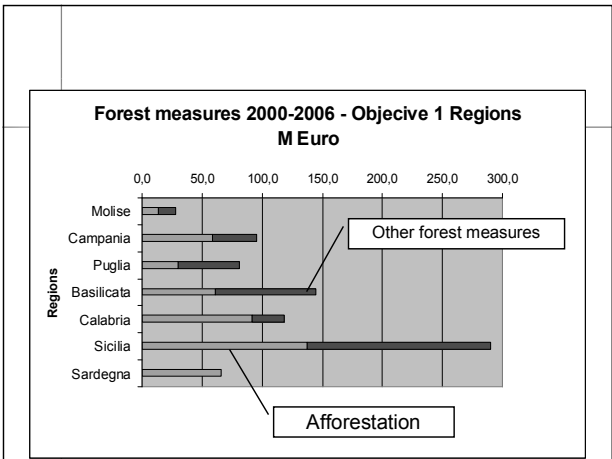
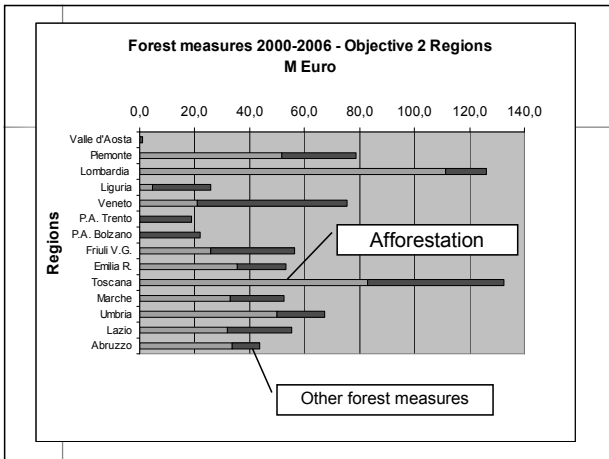
- the CAP reform (early '90s) = conversion of farm land into plantations

Reg. 2080/92:  
105,000 ha of afforestation concentrated in plain area

**RDPs (2000-2006)**  
**= 1632 MEuro**

Afforestation:	57.5%	A "shadow" forest policy = a CAP-dependent policy with funds mainly used in plain area
Other forest measures:	42.5%	

Central and Northern Regions:	20.0% (new forests) 39.4% (old forest) 40.6% (other measures)
Southern Regions	12.1% (new forests) 43.6% (old forests) 44.2% (other measures)



## Policies for the internalisation of Carbon sequestration function

### ARD (art. 3.3 KP):

- **40,000 ha** of new plantations with the RDP funds (**1 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>** - 200 MEuro)
- **60,000 ha** of new plantations created with Law 83/1989 (**1 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>** - 300 MEuro)
- From Reg. 2080/92 plantations: **1 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>**  
→ plantations in plain areas

### Forest management (art. 3.4):

- after Decision 11 COP 7: 15% of total C sink of already existing forests (= in mountain areas) = **0.66 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>**

### • energy policy

- SRF investments heavily supported by some Regional authorities (Lombardia, Veneto, Friuli Venezia Giulia)

### • the growing demand for new recreational areas and for landscape restoration in peri-urban zones

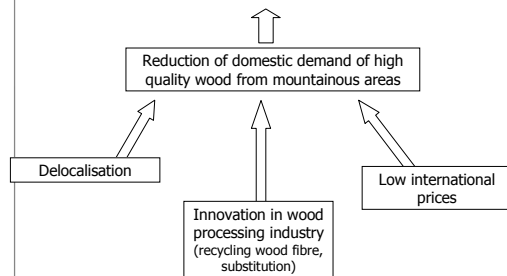
- "Bosco di Mestre" (Veneto)
- "10 grandi foreste di pianura" (Lombardia)
- New management policy for the watershed of the Venice Lagoon

### • the need to restore caves and abandoned areas formerly used as industrial sites

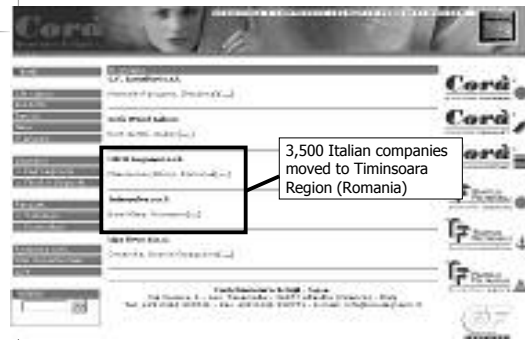
- "Bosco di Seveso"

## B.2 The driving forces: internal factors to the forestry sector

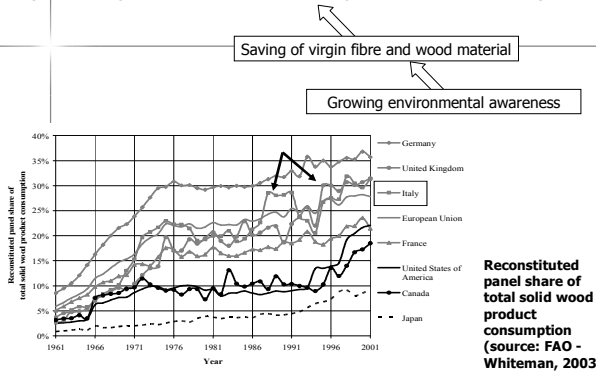
### • the decline of industrial timber production in mountainous areas



## Delocalisation



## Innovation in wood processing industry (increasing use of recovered wood products, substitution)

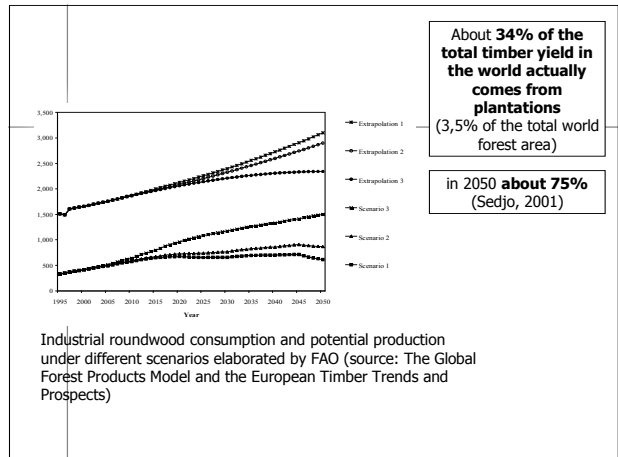
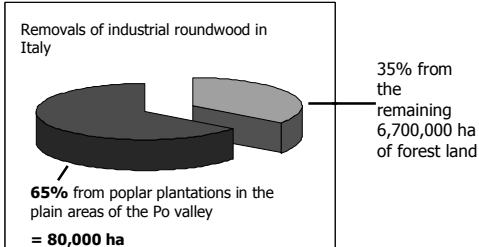


1.8 M tons/year of wood product consumption



Low international prices: loss of competitiveness of wood from mountain forests

• the increased competitiveness of tree plantations



C. Final considerations

Forests in plain areas: a new social and political environment

- Loss of identity by traditional foresters and forest institutions
- New technical problems (selection of species, afforestation practices, management practices, etc.)

→ investments in research, innovations, training

- New approaches in forest policy implementation and in communication

Different approaches in forest policy implementation

	<i>In mountain areas</i>	<i>In plain areas</i>
<i>Stakeholders</i>	Few, rather passive	Many and active (→ conflict management)
<i>Role of forest administration</i>	Central	Partner with other institutions
<i>Prevailing instruments</i>	Control	Incentives, management agreements
<i>Involvement/ interest by politicians</i>	Low	High
<i>Management objectives</i>	Multifunctionality	Often more specialised use of the forest resource

