

PROJECT PARTNERS

The **University of Turin** is the project leader, with the cooperation of researchers from the Department of Agricultural, Forestry and Food Sciences (**DISAFA**) and the Department of Veterinary Sciences (**DSV**). The multi-disciplinary team leading the project has skills in arboriculture, animal nutrition, food and veterinary sciences, with proven experience in the sectors of mulberry, rabbit and insect breeding.

Numerous farms located in Piedmont are involved in the project:

Agrimontana Spa

Azienda Agricola Mellano Mauro

Azienda Agricola Cunigranda di Perano Danilo

Azienda Agricola Vallino Alessandro

Azienda Agricola Villa Villacolle di Fea Manuela

La Maurina Società Semplice Agricola

Studio Associato AStudio.



FEASR Fondo europeo agricolo per lo sviluppo rurale:
l'Europa investe nelle zone rurali

GELSO-NET

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Gelso-net



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**Mulberry Agrifood Chain:
Fruit - Forage - Silkworm Sectors**

GELSO-NET

It is a project financed by the measure 16 (sub-measure 16.1 - Action 2) of the 2014-2020 Rural Development program of the Piedmont Region

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In a *Circular Agriculture* perspective, **GELSO-NET** intends to relaunch, at regional and national levels, the agro-industrial mulberry fruit and leaf chain, in close connection with the livestock production chains of silkworm and rabbit breeding. The project aims to review the mulberry chain according to a highly innovative process, which contributes to the integrated and sustainable development of the agrifood sector and enhances the countless ecosystem services of the mulberry according to socio-cultural criteria and economic profitability.

GELSO-NET aims to revisit mulberry cultivation with an innovative approach in order to develop:

LEAF CHAIN

Realization of intensive plants and insertion of mulberry green pruning waste in another chain.



SILKWORM CHAIN

Valorization of an artificial diet protocol and of a "regional silk chain", free from the traditional seasonality of silkworm breeding.



RABBIT CHAIN

Production of feed based on mulberry leaf meal to obtain a functional raw material that allows the reduction of feed costs, the improvement of the nutraceutical characteristics of rabbit meat and responds to the growing needs and expectations of the consumers.

FRUIT CHAIN

Insertion of fresh and processed mulberry fruit in the marketing circuits.



Mulberry cultivation



Fruit chain



Leaf chain



Silkworm chain



Rabbit chain

The production of the fruit, which in the past represented a secondary product in Italy, is today the element for a review of the entire chain that can be based on a modern approach. In the past, in Piedmont the mulberry was cultivated for the production of leaves that were essential feed for the breeding of silkworms. For a long time, silkworms helped to provide well-being and sustenance for many families. The **GELSO-NET** project allows bringing to light a traditional production such as the silkworm one, but revisited in an innovative way, enhancing a new production chain represented by the delicate and delicious mulberry fruits, and by a more sustainable rabbit farming.

Total cost of the project: 833.716,80 €

Public grant allowed: 625.419,31 €

FEASR share: 269.680,81 €

