

INTERACTION BETWEEN MACROFUNGHI PRODUCTION AND FORESTRY: THE “AMYCOFOREST” ALCOTRA PROJECT

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A wide range of wood types favours the fungal growth. Specifically, edible ectomycorrhizal mushrooms (both hypogeous and epigeous) represent an economical resource that can be fruitfully exploited. In spite of this an actual planning of the forest devoted to fungal exploitation is neglected: this is due to the little attention for the dynamic conservation of underbrush products and to the abandonment of wide forest areas. Maintaining and increasing fungal production require suitable management practices and alternate silvicultural choices. This is particularly true owing to the recent significant increment of wood resources exploitation for biomass production: indeed there is a need of a trade-off between conservation actions and forest exploitation. Scarce attention was paid on these concerns, especially in Mediterranean and alpine areas in spite of the important role played by wild mushroom harvesting in rural economy. A number of researches carried out studies that investigated the impact of silvicultural treatments on both fungi production and mycodiversity (see, for instance, Pilz e Molina, 2002; Pilz *et al.*, 2006; Bonet *et al.*, 2008; Pinna *et al.*, 2010).

In this scenario, an international group of public institutions (Regione Liguria, Regione Piemonte, Provincia di Imperia, Università di Genova, Centre Régional de la Propriété Forestière) promoted an Alcotra (Alpi Latina COoperazione TRAnsfrentaliera Italia-Francia) project, named “Amycoforest”, which involves Piedmont, Liguria, Rhones Alpes. Amycoforest is a demonstrative and training project based on technical and scientific experiences: the main aim is to develop a silviculture which harmonizes wood and fungal production according to a concept of multiple-use forestry. The 2-years project will be structured in a series of activities: i) mapping of suited areas; ii) realization of cartography useful to propose a management models for the selected areas; iii) preparation of demonstrative stands in order to show the forest management treatments to be adopted for a fruitful mushroom production; and iv) promotion of research, education, sustainability, marketing, rural development associated with forest mushrooms. A relevant role will be played by the dissemination of the various subjects faced by the project with the purpose of informing the forest owners and keepers about a possible economical increase that can be derived by appropriate and specific management actions devoted to improve the fungal production (including truffles).

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