

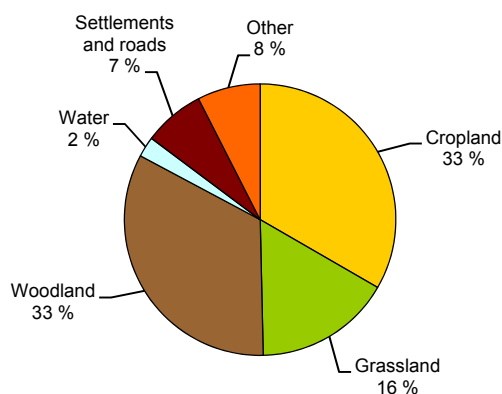
Arable farming in Italy

Italy has a temperate climate that can be divided into four main climatic zones: 1) Mediterranean climate 2) Continental climate 3) Alpine climate and 4) Apennine climate. The Mediterranean climate is associated with a subtropical climate characterized by hot dry summers and mild winters with a lot of rain, together with the presence of typical Mediterranean vegetation, the so-called Mediterranean forests.

The continental climate is found in the Po valley. This area includes the plains of the regions Piedmont, Lombardy, Veneto, Emilia and western Friuli. Winters are typically long, humid and foggy while summers are hot and muggy. Rainfall in this area is moderate.

The Alpine climate is found in the Alpine mountain range. Winters are long and harsh while summers are short and cool. Rainfall is abundant and occurs mainly during the summer with heavy snowfall occurring during the winter. Lastly, the Apennine climate involves the Apennine mountain range and therefore the greater part of the Italian peninsula from Liguria to Calabria. Here the climate is characterized by cold winters and hot summers. Rainfall varies depending on the zone, but is heavier to the west. It snows often in the winter. The climate is obviously milder at lower altitudes and takes on the characteristics of the continental climate, becoming Mediterranean as we move closer to the coastline.

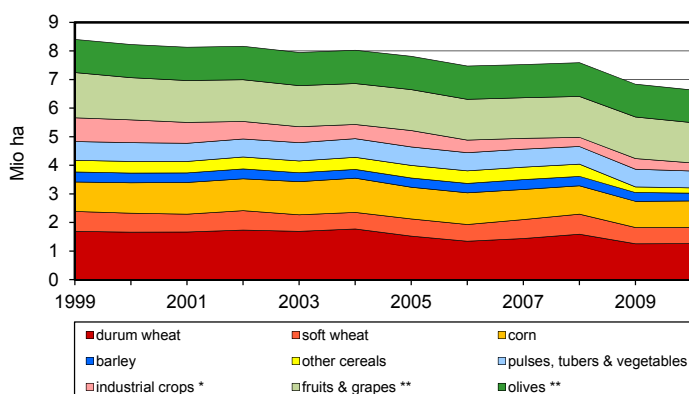
Land use in Italy 2009



The Italian territory is covered mainly by woodland (33 %), mostly in the Alpine and Apennine mountainous areas, and by cropland (33 %). Only 16 % of the national territory is covered by grassland.

Source: Eurostat 2011

Agricultural land use in Italy



* including sunflower, rapeseed, sugarbeets etc.

** since no update available, data for 2010 represent 2009 values

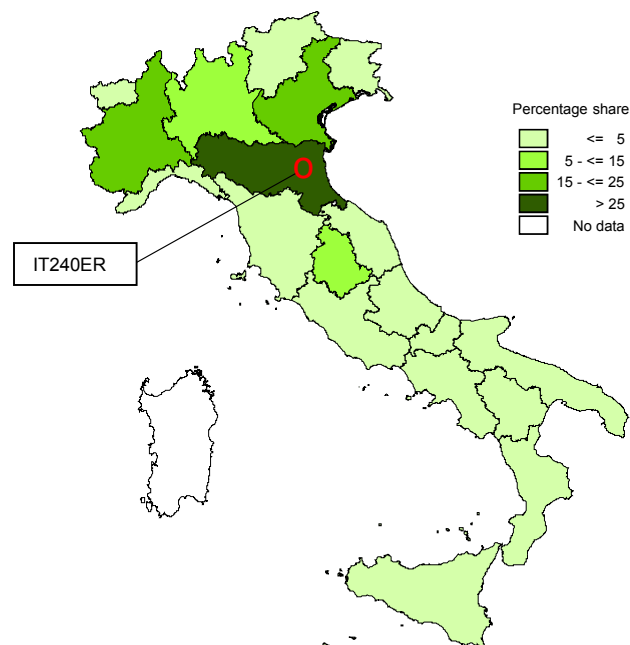
Source: ISTAT 2012

The amount of land dedicated to the production of crops, vegetables and fruits has decreased in recent years, primarily due to economic difficulties in the sector. Price increases for the purchase of technical means together with high volatility in market prices have caused a decrease in profitability which has led to a minor utilization of land for these crops. In 2010 among cereals, durum wheat has been the crop with highest acreage (1.3 Mio. ha), followed by corn (925,000 ha) and soft wheat (570,000 ha). Barley, sugarbeet, soybeans or sunflower are of minor importance. Fruits, grapes and olives together cover 2.5 Mio. ha and thus comprise a major share of the agricultural land in this Mediterranean country.

Regarding the major Italian growing areas, one must distinguish between those areas specialized in soft wheat

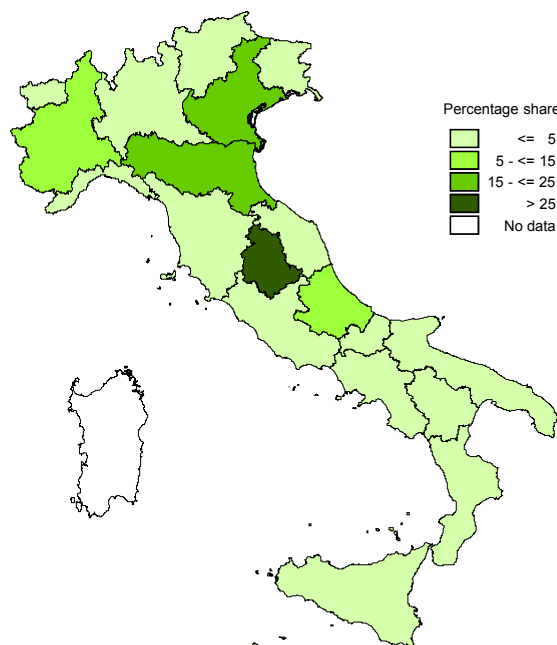
production and those specialized in intensive durum wheat production.

Percentage share of total wheat acreage in Italy, 2011



Source: based on ISTAT 2012

Percentage share of wheat acreage per arable land per province, 2011

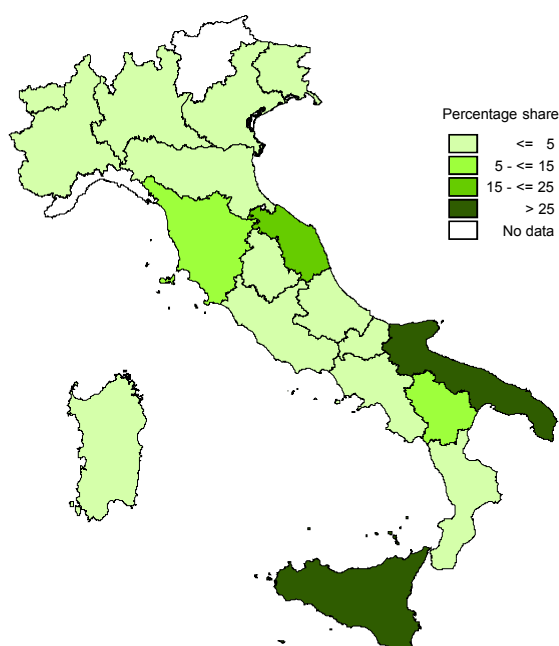


Source: based on ISTAT 2012

In the figure on the top we see that the Emilia- Romagna region, shown in dark green, is the region with the largest soft wheat production across Italy. Namely 27 % of the

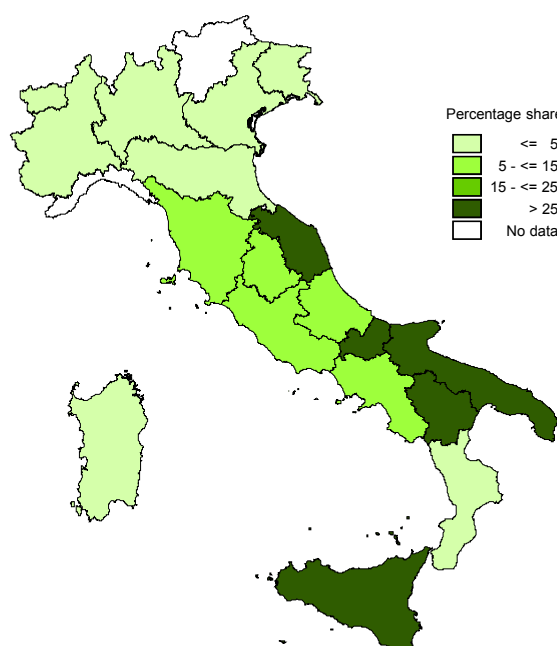
total soft wheat acreage is found here. Durum wheat is produced more heavily in the southern regions of Puglia and Sicily which are indicated in dark green.

Percentage share of total durum acreage in Italy, 2011



Source: based on ISTAT 2012

Percentage share of durum acreage per arable land per province, 2011



Source: based on ISTAT 2012